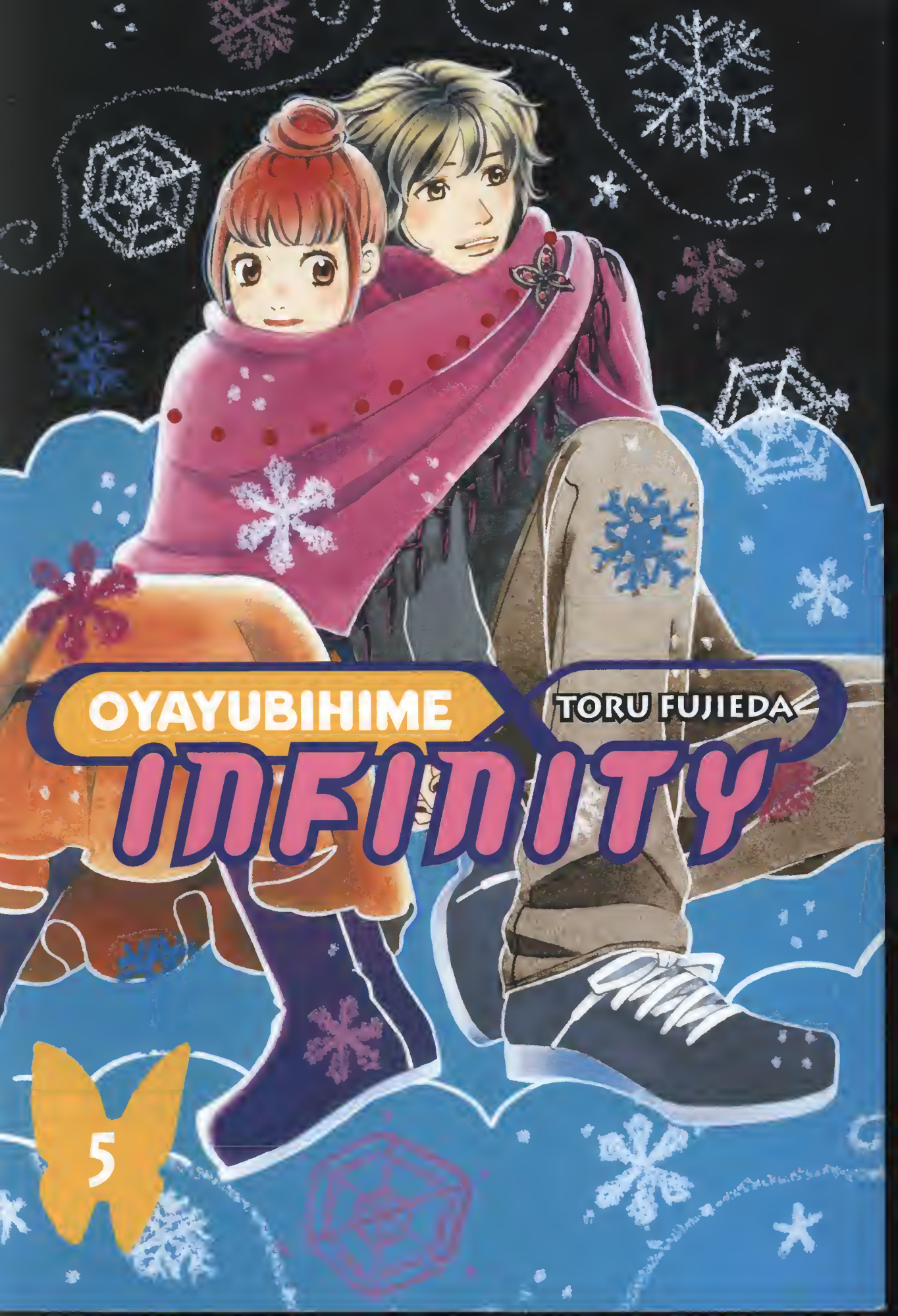
REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA,
BUY YOUR COPY TODAY!!
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC.


OYAYUBIHIME
TORU FUJIEDA
INFINITY
5

OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY

Volume 5

By Toru Fujieda

OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY

CHAPTER 21

The Demon Girl

OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY

Volume:5

READ MAIL
[SUBJECT]

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[MESSAGE BODY]

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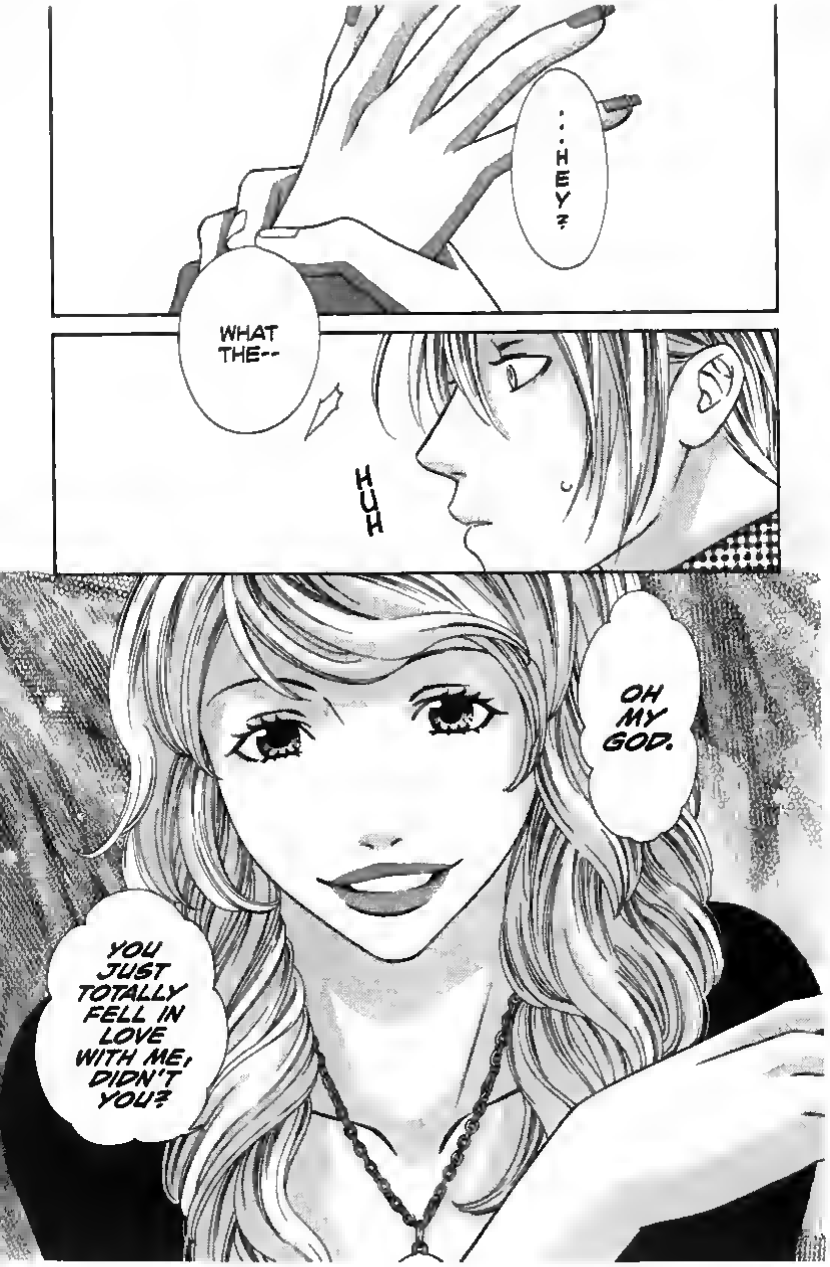
A high school student named Kanoko has a birthmark shaped like a butterfly on her thumb. The most popular kid at school, Tsubame, discovers her birthmark, and tells her it's a sign that she's his "true love." He has a birthmark with the same shape. Apparently, it is a symbol of a promise to meet again, made in a past life. Tsubame had been searching for Agemaki, the love of his previous life.

In the middle of all this, Kanoko's sister Mayu disappears, prompting Kanoko to want to learn more about her past life. She soon realizes that she was indeed Agemaki! However, Kanoko's Agemaki is not quite the person Tsubame was looking for. Though this somewhat disappoints Kanoko, she feels a great sympathy for Agemaki, and is able to look forward with renewed will.

And then there's the leader of the idol group "Splash," Arata, who Kanoko only met because of the whole incident where Mayu ran away. He has the same birthmark as Kanoko, and claims to be a person with whom Agemaki shared a deep relationship. It turns out he's not lying—and Kanoko at first reluctantly begins to get to know him.

In the middle of all this, Tsubame's best friend Mike meets a girl while working at a convenience store. Mike has a strong hunch that this girl is the one Tsubame has been searching for. Whatever will become of his relationship with Kanoko, then?



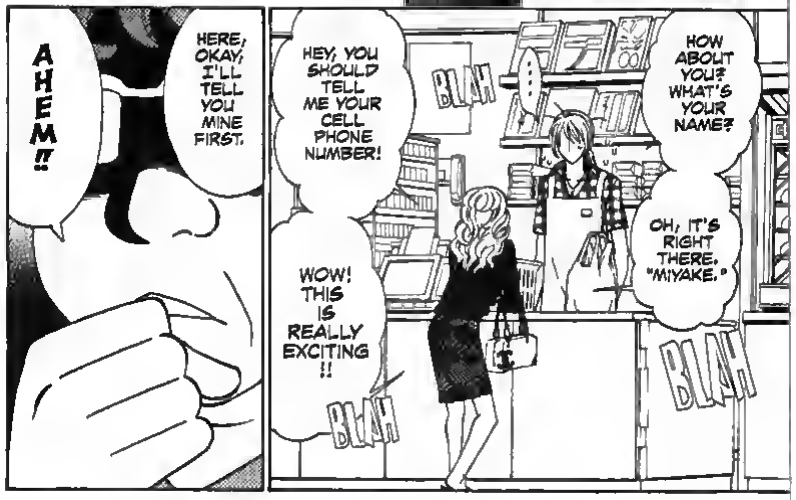
Character Guide #18

Birthday: 8/10 (male)
Blood Type: ?

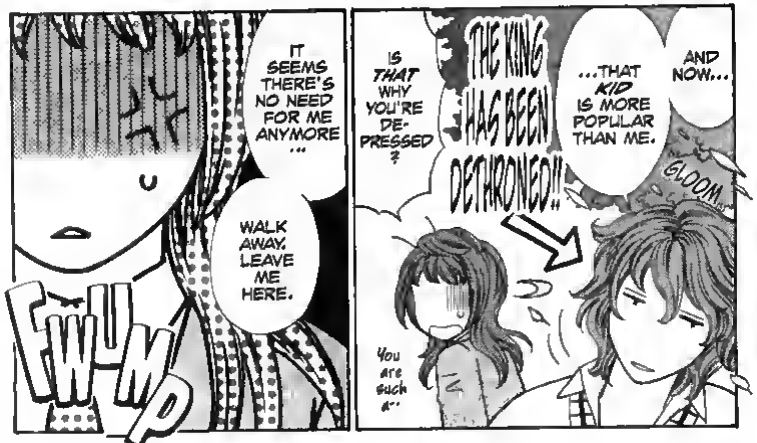
Danjuurou Azuma

This little kitty belongs to the owner of Tsubame's apartment building
He appeared in two panels of chapter 18!
He loves his kitty food.

* ODEN: A Japanese stew, usually served in winter.


AHEM!!
HERE, OKAY, I'LL TELL YOU MINE FIRST.
HEY, YOU SHOULD TELL ME YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER!
WOW! THIS IS REALLY EXCITING!!
HOW ABOUT YOU? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
OH, IT'S RIGHT THERE. "MIYAKE."
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH

KYAAA!!
TAIJU!! HE'S SO ADORABLE !!
DID YOU GET A PICTURE OF HIM?!


IT SEEMS THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME ANYMORE ...
WALK AWAY. LEAVE ME HERE.
FWUMP
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE DE-PRESSED ?
THE KING HAS BEEN DETHRONED!!
...THAT KID IS MORE POPULAR THAN ME.
AND NOW...
GLOOM
You are such a--

That's kind of why I made this lunch for you...
LOOK, I'M SORRY I WENT OUT WITH ARATA. REALLY.
DIDN'T I APOLOGIZE LIKE A HUNDRED TIMES YESTERDAY ?
BAH!
WELL, HE'S IN A GOOD MOOD...
Whoa, yeah! Let's eat!
Fish face ?
ALL RIGHT, THEN-- WE'RE GONNA EAT THEM ALL, THEN?
Here, let's share Tsubames..
WELL, UH...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT SOONER ?
Go? What happened??
AND THAT--
KYAAAA
OR THAT I GET HUNGRY AND PASS OUT SOME-TIMES, OR THAT I'M STUPID !!
WELL, IT'S ME WHO SHOULD APOLO-GIZE!!
SORRY I DON'T HAVE A CAR! OR THAT I'M NOT RICH!
JEALOUSY MODE

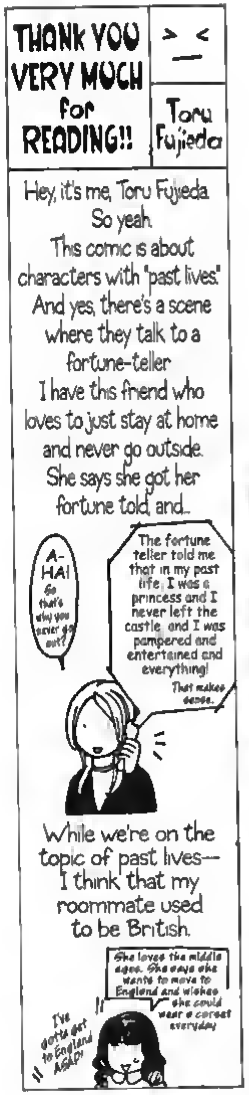
IS Y--
THERE YOU ARE, KANOKO. I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.

I JUST WANTED TO WARN YOU NOT TO TRY TO CONTACT ARATA ANYMORE--
!!
U U

I WAS NEVER TRYING TO CONTACT HIM!
SO YOU SAY! WELL, I'LL BE AT THIS SCHOOL EVERY DAY NOW...
...SO I'LL BE CHECKING UP ON YOU.
IF I DON'T, WHO KNOWS WHERE YOU'LL TAKE HIM NEXT TIME...
CLICK
OH, TAIJU-- IT'S ME. ABOUT KANOKO--
beep beep beep

GIMME A BREAK!
YOU NEED TO GROW UP!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT WE DID FOR YOU THE OTHER DAY?
JUST... JUST IGNORE ME WHEN I'M SO DEPRESSED.
WHY DON'T YOU GO SPEND SOME TIME WITH ARATA?
SIGH
GRRRRRRRR
YOU FOOL!!

I--
THE PERSON I REALLY LIKE...
WHY DO YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT?
DON'T YOU GET IT?


THANK YOU VERY MUCH for READING!!
>_<
Toru Fujieda
Hey, it's me, Toru Fujieda
So yeah.
This comic is about characters with "past lives."
And yes, there's a scene where they talk to a fortune-teller
I have this friend who loves to just stay at home and never go outside.
She says she got her fortune told, and..
A-HA! So that's why you never go out!
The fortune teller told me that in my past life, I was a princess and I never left the castle, and I was pampered and entertained and everything!
That makes sense.
While we're on the topic of past lives—I think that my roommate used to be British.
She loves the middle ages. She says she wants to move to England and wishes she could wear a corset everyday
I've gotta get to England ASAP!

MAN...
WHY DOES HE HAVE TO BE LIKE THAT?
...YEAH!
I REALLY LOVE CONVENIENCE STORES!
WHEN I'M LONELY THEY'RE ALWAYS SO BRIGHT AND FULL OF LIFE AND STUFF! ♡

WHAT?!
Is something wrong, Arata-san?
GOOD-BYE.
KANOKO IS BUSY CHEATING ON YOU RIGHT NOW.
CLICK
OKAY! SERIOUSLY! STOP BUGGING ME!
cheating ??
THEN BREAK UP WITH ARATA !!
GYAAA GYAAA
IF ANYTHING, HE'S GOING TO MAKE KANOKO CHOOSE ARATA OUT OF SPITE.
He's cute, though, huh?
MAN, TAIJU'S A MORON.
I would if I was GOING OUT WITH HIM!!
IF HE WOULD JUST IGNORE HER THINGS WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER...

...SO, KASUGANO-SAN.
WHAT... DO YOU DO?
WOW! I FEEL JUST LIKE A LITTLE GIRL AGAIN!
THIS MUST BE LOVE! IT MUST BE!!
SLAP
.....
UHM... WELL-LLL.....
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'M TAKING A BREAK.
JUST KINDA THINKIN' WHAT DO I WANT TO DO NEXT.
YOU KNOW.
SO I'M FREE EVERY DAY.

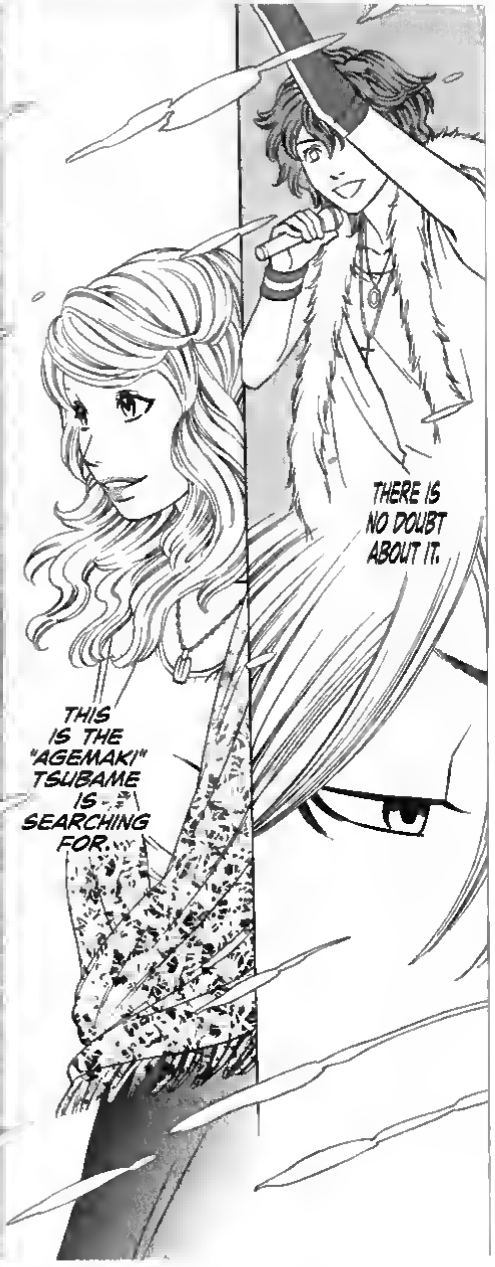
SO, UM, WHEN ARE YOU FINISHED WORKING TODAY?
OH MY GOD! YOU MUST BE THE BOSS! I'M SOOOO SORRY!
UM, MIYAKE, IF YOU, UH, WOULDN'T MIND SAVING THIS FOR AFTER WORK?
KAGERO USUDA CONVENIENCE STORE MANAGER 41 YEARS OLD SINGLE CUP NOODLE SPECIALIST
.....
I'm going home.
PLEASE DO NOT FOLLOW ME.
HUH?
WHY WHY WHY?
MAN, IT'S KINDA MYSTE-RIOUS--
IT JUST... DOESN'T FEEL LIKE OUR FIRST MEETING.

I DID!
DURING THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
SOMETIMES ME AND MY FRIEND GO, JUST TO HAVE A LOOK.
IT'S REALLY NOSTALGIC--LIKE BEING BACK IN SCHOOL...
THE STUDENTS WERE PUTTING ON SOME KIND OF SHOW IN THE GYM.
IT WAS REALLY CUTE.
I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE BOY WHO WAS SINGING--

WHAT!?
YOU'RE ONLY EIGHT-EEN? NO WAY!
EIGH-TEEN.
HOW ABOUT YOU, MIYA? HOW OLD ARE YOU?
WHERE DO YOU GO TO SCHOOL?
KAEI.
SO ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL?
SHE'S... THIRTY?
WOW, I MUST LOOK LIKE SUCH AN OLD LADY TO YOU...
THAT'S A REAL SHOCK! I'M, LIKE, TWELVE YEARS OLDER THAN YOU?
I mean, I figured you were younger...
KAE!...
WOW.
I WENT TO THAT SCHOOL ONE DAY LAST YEAR...!

THEY ABANDON THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN...
THE MEN SHE WOOS...
THAT GIRL IS A DEMON.
THEY GIVE IT ALL UP...
...ALWAYS GO CRAZY.

AGEMAKI.
"UTSUSEMI ..."
YOU BE CAREFUL AROUND HER.
THAT GIRL...

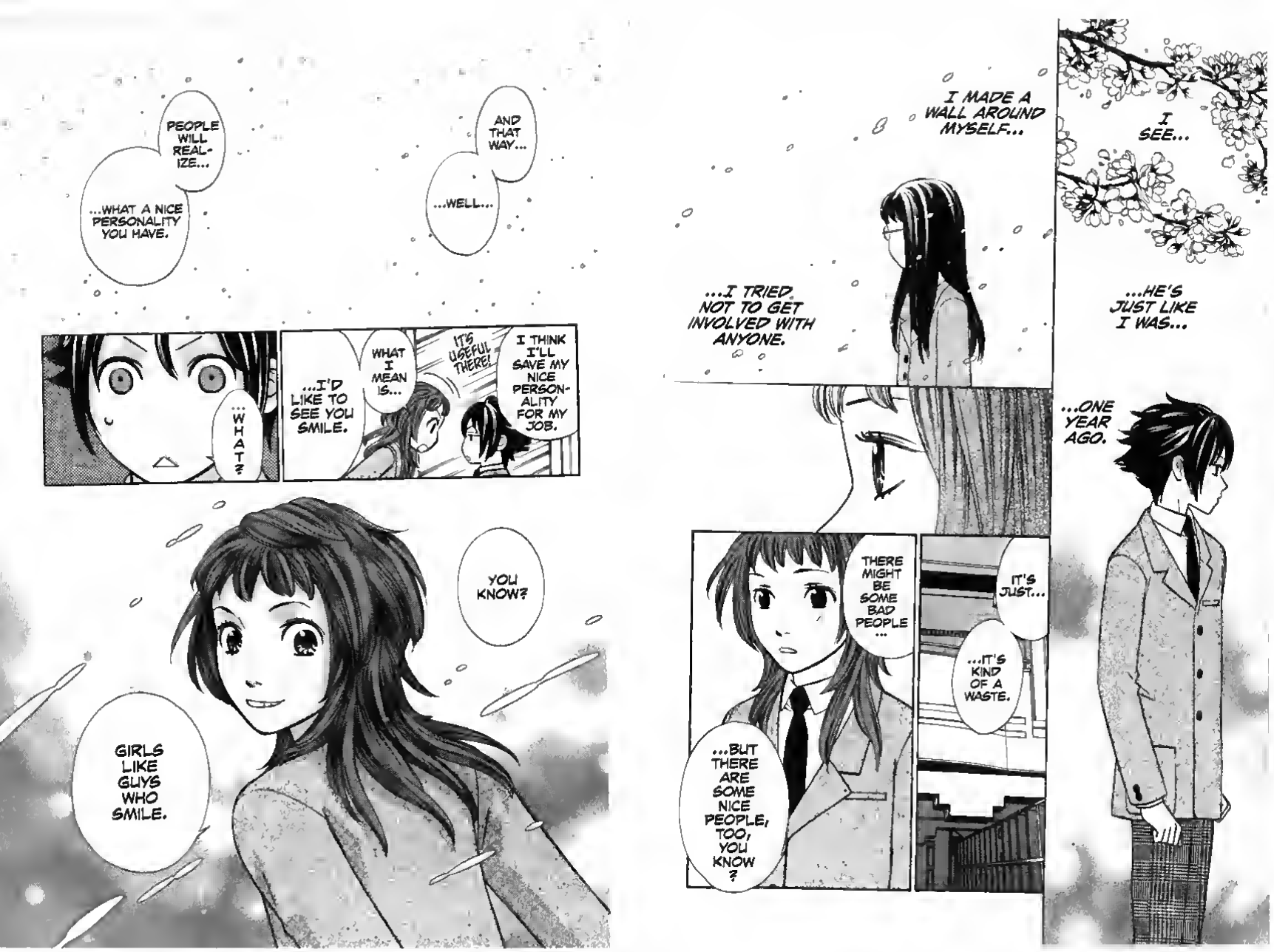

THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
THIS IS THE "AGEMAKI" TSUBAME IS SEARCHING FOR.

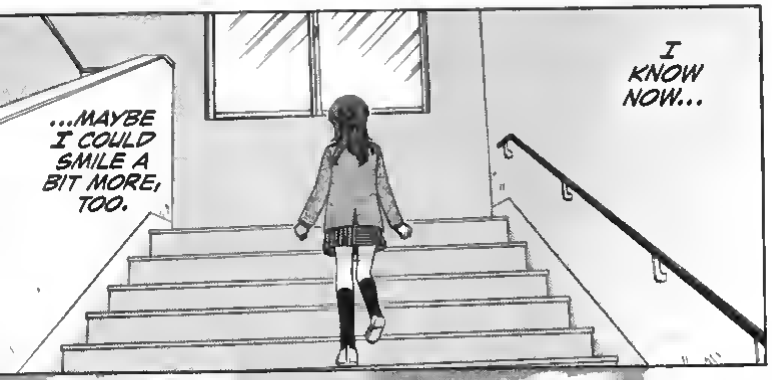
PING PONG
WHAT IS IT?
C'MON, TAIJU! LET'S BE FRIENDS !!
WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?!
IT'LL BE JUST LIKE BACK THEN...
IF THEY MEET...
...MUST NOT LET THIS GIRL MEET TSUBAME.

SOMETIMES EVEN THEIR WHOLE LIVES.
...DID WE MEET AT THAT FESTIVAL?
DO YOU THINK...
HEY, HEY-- MIY !!
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
MIYAAA?
HEY...
I DEFINITELY...

HEY, DO YOU MIND?
UH... HUH?
WHAT AM I...
STAMP
STAMP
THEY'LL MISUNDERSTAND YOU.
LIKE I CARE!!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU COULD BE A LITTLE MORE POLITE?
MAYBE?
I'D RATHER BE HATED AND IGNORED...
...THAN HAVE THEM EXPECT ME TO TELL THEM STUPID STORIES.
I'M MORE COMFORTABLE THIS WAY.
...AHA.

WOULD YOU MIND POINTING YOUR MOUTHS IN ANOTHER DIRECTION?
IS IT TRUE SHE'S GOT A REALLY BAD TEMPER?
MAN, FAMOUS PEOPLE HAVE IT GOOD! I WANNA BE FAMOUS--
WOW!!!
HEY, DO YOU KNOW THAT IDOL, MEGUMI? DID SHE GET PLASTIC SURGERY?
YOU'VE MET HER, RIGHT? WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
WOW
YOU STUPID JERK!!
TAIJU!!!
THE TEACHER IS CALLING YOU!!
WHA--
IF YOU WANT TO TALK TABLOID STUFF, GO DO IT SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WHAT?
ME, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO PUT UP WITH IT.
BYE.


I SEE...
...HE'S JUST LIKE I WAS...
...ONE YEAR AGO.
I MADE A WALL AROUND MYSELF...
...I TRIED NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANYONE.
IT'S JUST...
...IT'S KIND OF A WASTE.
THERE MIGHT BE SOME BAD PEOPLE...
...BUT THERE ARE SOME NICE PEOPLE, TOO, YOU KNOW?
AND THAT WAY...
...WELL...
PEOPLE WILL REALIZE...
...WHAT A NICE PERSONALITY YOU HAVE.
I THINK I'LL SAVE MY NICE PERSONALITY FOR MY JOB.
IT'S USEFUL THERE!
WHAT I MEAN IS...
...I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU SMILE.
...WHAT?
YOU KNOW?
GIRLS LIKE GUYS WHO SMILE.


...MAYBE I COULD SMILE A BIT MORE, TOO.
I KNOW NOW...
RATHER THAN HAVING FIGHTS WITH TSUBAME....

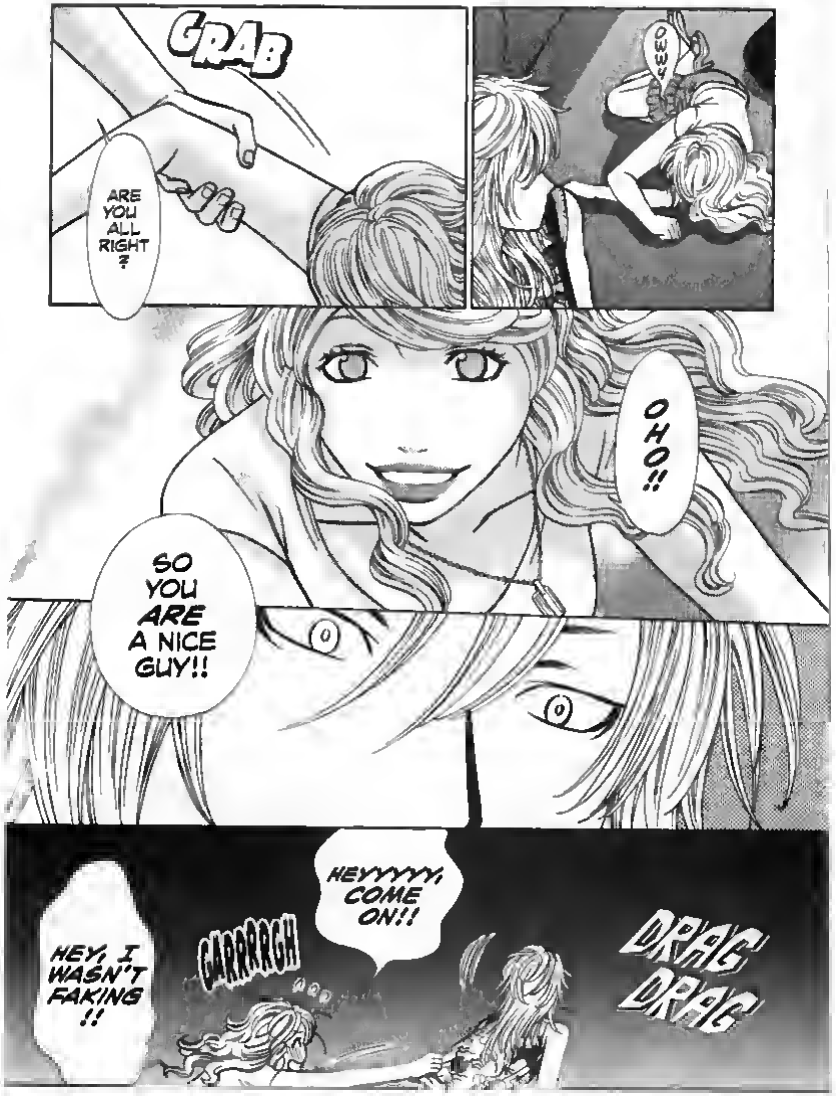
I GUESS THE FIRST THING I HAVE TO DO...
...IS TELL HIM.
...HM.

.....!
Is there a garbage can around here?
GOOD LUCK OUT THERE! IT'S TOUGH BEING POPULAR!
MAN...
...WHAT THE HECK...
WHAT A WEIRDO!!

TELL HIM HOW I FEEL.
HMMM?
THIS IS THE STORE WHERE MIKE WORKS, RIGHT?
I wanted him to SERVE us...
He probably got fired already.
WHY THE HELL DID YOU QUIT YOUR JOB ALREADY?
HEY!!

FWUMP
YOU'RE SUCH A JERK!
I... FIGURED YOU LIVED AROUND HERE, SOOO?
HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN HERE...?
I JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU, MIYAKE?
WHY DON'T YOU EVER TELL ME ANYTHING?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GRABBED ME!
TURN
HEY! WAI--
WOBBLE
KYA-
THUD

Mike !!!!
BEEP BEEP
...YES.
HEY, MIKE!! ARE YOU AT HOME?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT...
I'M IN THE AREA, IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I STOP BY?
NO.
I'M NOT AT HOME.


GRAB
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OHO!!
SO YOU ARE A NICE GUY!!
HEYYYYYY, COME ON!!
GARRRGH
DRAG DRAG
HEY, I WASN'T FAKING!!

RUSTLE
Ahhhh
Flutter
Are we playin HIDE 'N' SEEK?
...CAN YOU STAND ?
NOW YOU'RE SPEAKING MY LAN-GUAGE !!
HEY HEY!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN ?
. . . . . hoh

Anyway, is it all right if I just go to your house and wait there?
I WENT TO THE CONVEN-IENCE STORE WHERE YOU WORK AND YOU WEREN'T THERE!!
REEEE-ALLY? WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'?
...HE'S REALLY NOT HOME.
HUH...
I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT WHAT I SHOULD DO WITH THE KANOKO SITUATION...

SHooo

IT SEEMS LIKE...
...I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU, MIYA...

RRRRRING
AHA!!
Finally!!
アアアア

What was that you were saying?
Oh, oh, I'm sorry—
The reception here is pretty awful.
Don't worry. I won't tell anyone.
I'm being mean.
Sorry
...WELL. IT'S PRETTY TOUGH FOR ME.
THOUGH, SINCE ALL I REALLY WISH FOR IS YOU TO BE HAPPY... I'LL JUST SAY...
...GOOD LUCK.
And if you ever change your mind, my offer will stay open. Promise!

So that's it, huh?
I JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR--
I'm... really, truly sorry...
IS IT FOR THAT ONE GUY? THAT LITTLE GUY?
I thought he was searching for another "true love?"
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
He's just a lonely guy, that's all!!
With the chicken-feather hair?
ARATA, I... REALLY... L--
I WAS BEATEN BY A MIDGET?!
beep beep beep

TSUBAME...
...OPENED UP MY WORLD.
HE'S MY "TRUE LOVE..." RIGHT HERE, AND RIGHT NOW...
KANOKO-OOOO-OOO...

...WHAT A FOOL.
click
THANK YOU.
...AIN'T GIVING UP THAT EASY.
I DON'T CARE WHAT SHE SAYS...
...ISN'T ME... EVEN IF IT'S SOMEONE ELSE...
EVEN IF THE "TRUE LOVE" TSUBAME IS LOOKING FOR...

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 22
Confession Time

TOMOR-ROW, THEN.
I'LL TELL TSUBAME I LOVE HIM...
CHAPTER 21/END

CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER CHATTER
I'M GONNA TELL TSUBAME HOW I FEEL ABOUT HIM!!
GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO NOT TOTALLY MESS THIS UP.
GOD, PLEASE ...
THUMP THUMP
OH NO ...
OH NO
MORNIN', KANOKO!
HURRY UP AND GET YOUR GYM CLOTHES ON!!

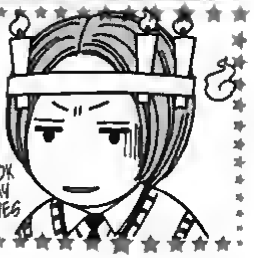
THE FATEFUL MORNING ARRIVES...
チュン チュン
...NOT CONFESS BY LETTER OF MAIL OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
SO, BASICALLY, THE PLAN IS TO...
I'M GONNA DO IT...
ALL RIGHT THEN !!
NO MORE HESITATING... I JUST HAVE TO TELL HIM TO HIS FACE.

Character Guide: #19

Miki Ebihara

Birthday: 11/5
Blood Type: A

She's Kanoko's classmate.
She likes Tsubame, and Tsubame likes Kanoko, so she hates Kanoko. She may look like your typical sweet teenage girl, though deep down inside she's a real devil.
She's also a big fan of horoscopes.



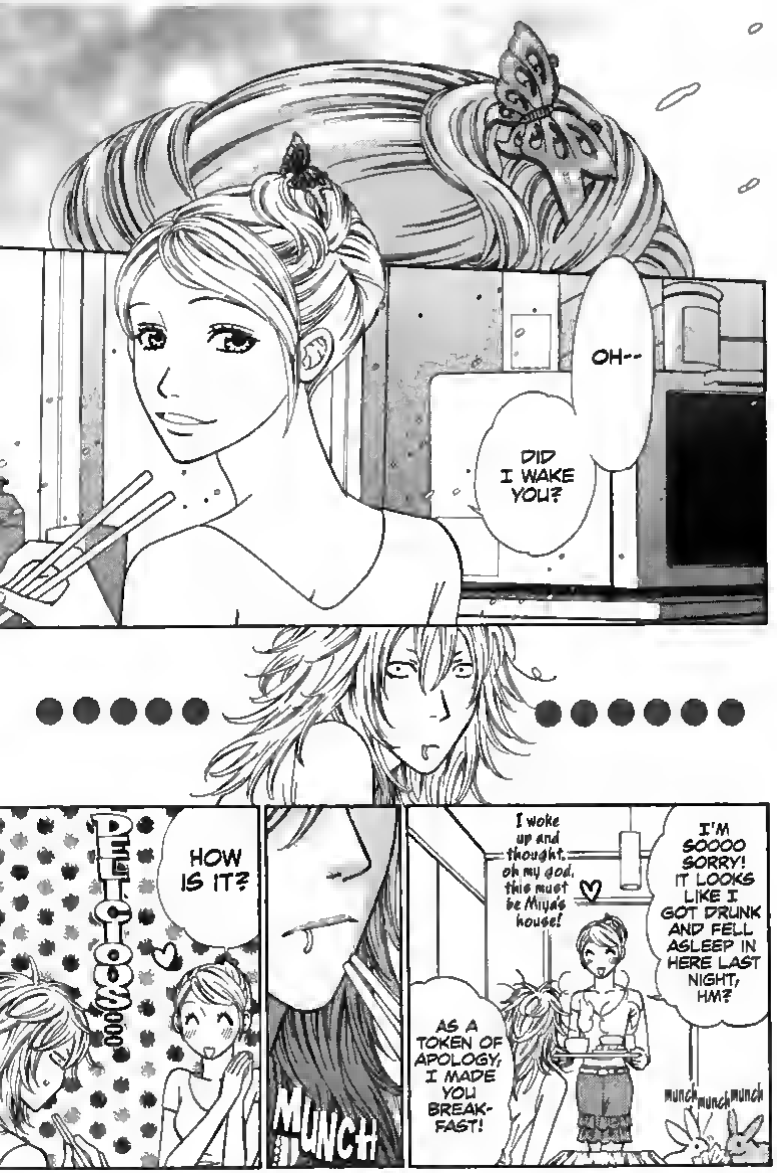
THE TRACK MEET IS THE SECOND MOST POPULAR EVENT, AFTER THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
AND, WELL...
THERE'S THIS LEGEND-- THE STUDENT WHO GETS FIRST PLACE WILL FIND THEIR TRUE LOVE BEFORE THE SCHOOL YEAR IS OVER.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A REALLY DUMB LEGEND.
I HAD NO IDEA!
YOU MAY SAY THAT NOW...
THOUGH, ACCORDING TO MY DATA, ALL OF THE STUDENTS WHO PLACED FIRST IN THEIR GRADES LAST YEAR ARE, LIKE, TOTALLY IN LOVE RIGHT NOW.
COME TO THINK OF IT, TSUBAME WAS THIRD PLACE AMONG THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS, LAST YEAR.
HE MUST HAVE TRAINED HIMSELF REALLY HARD, HOPING TO MEET "AGEMAKI..."
AHA...

This school has different color jerseys for each grade.
YO.
YOU LOOK UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING, KANOKO.
TODAY'S THE STUPID SCHOOL TRACK MEET THING.
OH NO!!
I TOTALLY FORGOT...
UH... OKAY?
WE'RE NOT HAVING NORMAL CLASSES THIS MORNING...

I CAN'T RUN, EITHER.
OH, REALLY?
Yeah, me, too.
MAANN
UH...WELL, ACTUALLY I KIND OF HATE RUNNING

He's not even in any sports clubs...
I DIDN'T KNOW TSUBAME... LIKED RUNNING?
AHA. SO YOU DON'T KNOW.
twinkle
ALL-LLL-RIGHT!!
LET'S DO THIS!!
stretch, stretch

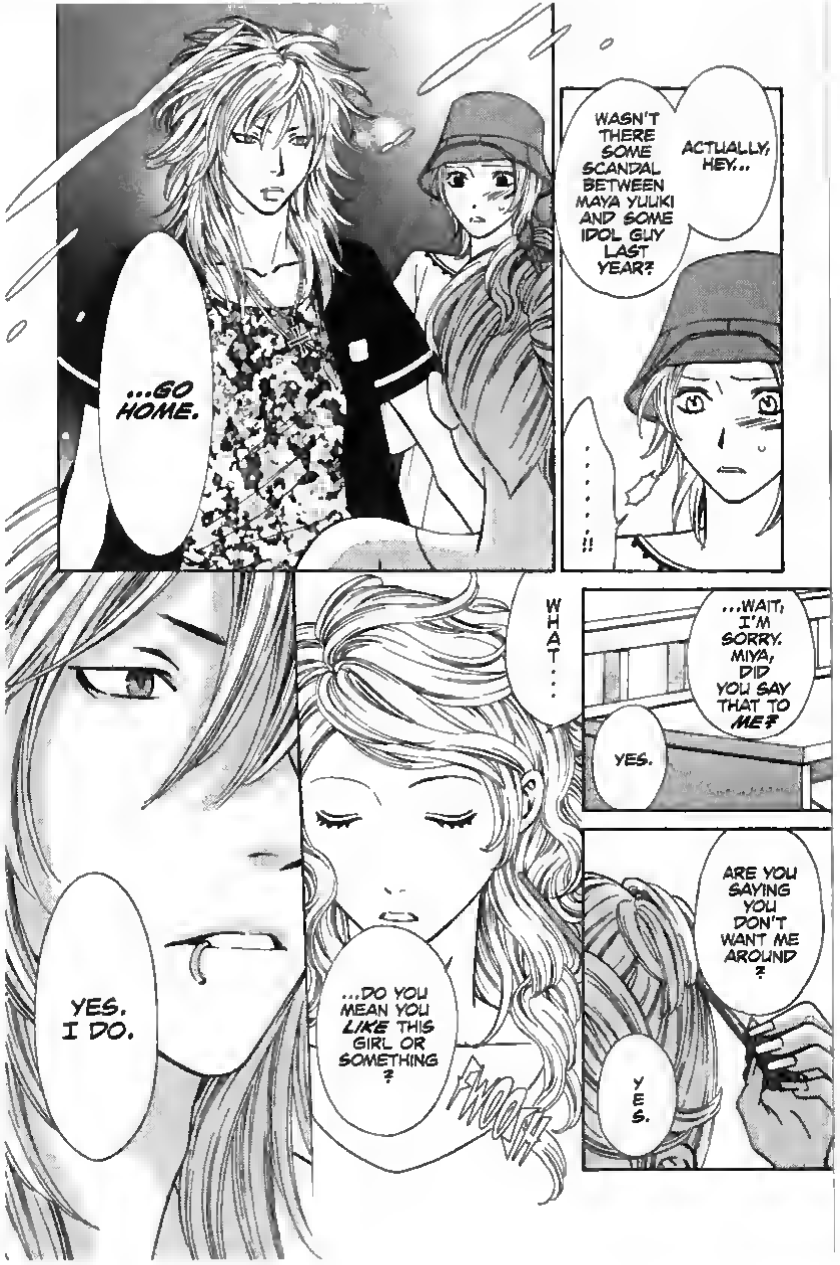

OH--
DID I WAKE YOU?
DELICIOUS
HOW IS IT?
MUNCH
I woke up and thought, oh my god, this must be Miya's house!
I'M SOOOO SORRY! IT LOOKS LIKE I GOT DRUNK AND FELL ASLEEP IN HERE LAST NIGHT, HM?
AS A TOKEN OF APOLOGY, I MADE YOU BREAK-FAST!
munch munch munch

HEY, NOW, KANOKO-- WHAT'S WRONG?
I DON'T FEEL LIKE CONFESSING TO HIM ANYMORE ...
HE'S REALLY PUSHING HIMSELF HARD IN HOPES OF FINDING HER...
HE WAS LOOKING FOR "AGEMAKI" LAST YEAR, AS WELL...
THAT'S RIGHT ...
COMMENCE
GO GO GO!!
OPERATION GET A BOYFRIEND
YOU CAN DO IT, KANOKO !!
NO WAY !!
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE, KANOKO !
WIN, AND CLAIM YOUR PRIZE-- TSUBAME !!

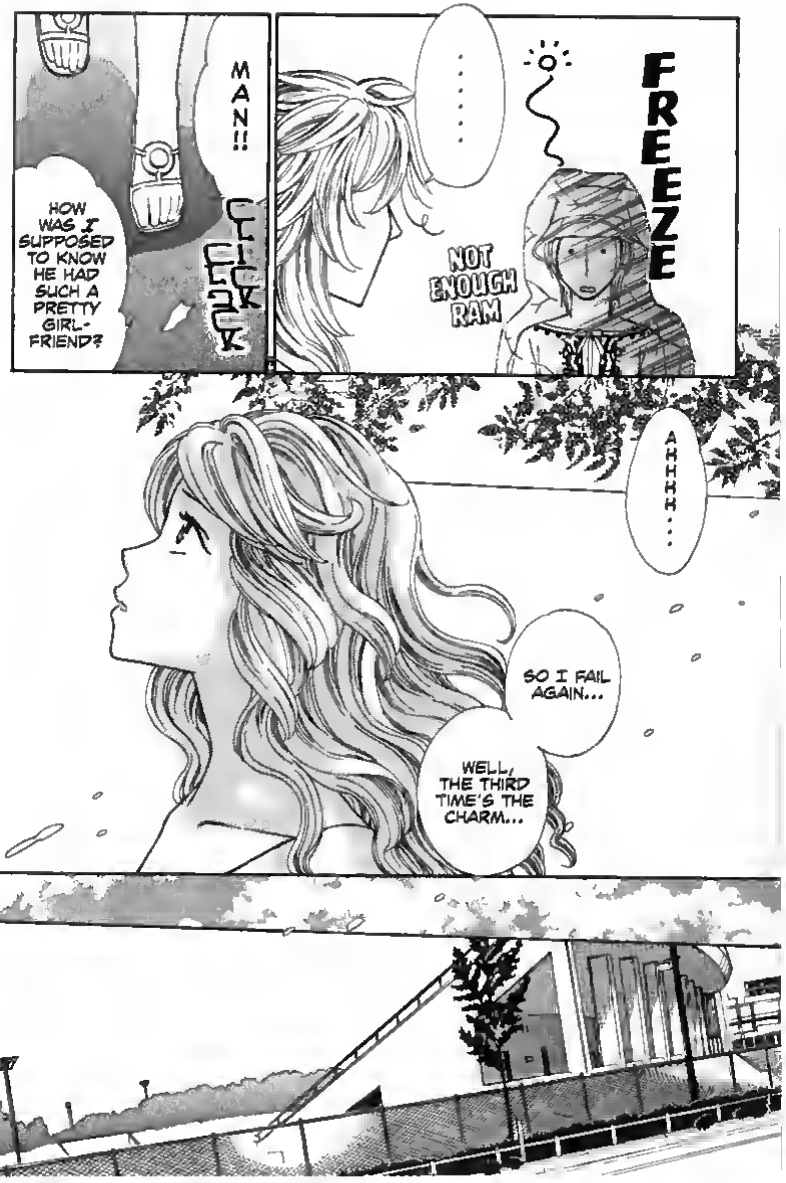
...UH
HI...
IT'S THE GIRL FROM YESTERDAY..??
Creak
.....
OH NO...
THUMP
DID SHE... STAY THE NIGHT AT MIYAKE'S PLACE?!
WHO-- WHA...!!
TREMBLE
HEY, MIYA, WHO THE HECK IS THIS?
"MIYA?!"
GYAAAAAH!
HEY, HEY...
ANYONE EVER TELL YOU YOU LOOK LIKE MAYA YUUKI?
YEAH? YOU GOT A PROBLEM?
!!
OR... ARE YOU...?
NO, OF COURSE NOT, SHE WOULDN'T BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...

LAST NIGHT...
"AHAHAH NO WAY! MIYAKE? WITH A GIRL??
TELL ME ANOTHER ONE!!
WHY DIDN'T SHE BELIEVE I SAW MIYAKE KISSING A GIRL IN THE PARK?
KANOKO IS SO DUMB!!
HE'S NOT PICKING UP HIS CELL PHONE... MAYBE HE'S STILL ASLEEP..
OF COURSE... IT WAS JUST SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE MIYAKE...
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE SHE'S RIGHT... MAYBE I WAS JUST MISTAKEN...
CHOONK
IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY TODAY!!
COME ON! COME SHOPPING WITH ME!!
CLICK CLACK

FWOOSH
GR
SORRY, MY HAND SLIPPED--
OO-- OOPS...
IN
HIMEMIYA.
MY APOLO-GIES.
CLICK CLICK
ANYWAY-- BE HAPPY, YOU TWO!!
Don't worry! There's nothing going on between me and him!
THIS MAN-- HE HELPED ME!! THAT'S ALL!!
AHAHAH
I'M SO SORRY! I'M SO SORRY IF I SURPRISED YOU!


...GO HOME.
ACTUALLY, HEY...
WASN'T THERE SOME SCANDAL BETWEEN MAYA YUUKI AND SOME IDOL GUY LAST YEAR?
.....!!
WHAT...
...WAIT, I'M SORRY. MIYA, DID YOU SAY THAT TO ME?
YES.
YES. I DO.
...DO YOU MEAN YOU LIKE THIS GIRL OR SOMETHING?
FWOOSH
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T WANT ME AROUND?
YES.

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST CONCENTRATE ON FINISHING THE RACE...
HOOF HOOF HOOF
MAN, I SUCK AT RUNNING...
HUH
GUH
HAAHH
I didn't get much sleep last night either...
WHA--
GRUNCH
スリ
JOOSH
ハ
!!
BAM
ちゃっ
HAHAH !!
WHAT A DORK!!
HEY, HIMEMIYA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?


MAN!!
CLICK CLICK
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW HE HAD SUCH A PRETTY GIRLFRIEND?
FREEZE
.....
NOT ENOUGH RAM
AHHHH....
SO I FAIL AGAIN...
WELL, THE THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM...

I LIKED TSUBAME SINCE WAY BEFORE YOU EVER MET HIM!!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT I DON'T, HUH?
WELL...
I LIKE HIM NOW!!
WH--
--WHAT?!

OH, MAN, NOT THEM AGAIN...
FOOLS.
You're the one who tripped me. And...YOU'RE the dork...
DASH
!
COUNTERATTACK
HEY! YOU! JERK!
WHAT THE HECK IS YOUR PROBLEM, HUH?
WH-- WHAT?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS CLINGING TO TSUBAME!!
THEN WHY DO YOU HATE ME?
WELL, DUH!! IT'S BECAUSE WE HATE YOU!!
BUMP
WELL, DUH!!

I CAN'T WAIT TILL TSUBAME DUMPS YOU !!
I SEE ...
SHE ...
I...
...SHE REALLY LIKES TSUBAME, TOO...

WELL, HE LIKES ME!!
I LIKED HIM SINCE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL !!
OH NO, YOU DIDN'T
NO, I LIKE HIM MORE !!
WELL, I LIKE HIM MORE THAN YOU DO!
KYAA --
NO, HE LIKES ME !!
DOOOM
!
GET AWAY FROM ME!! LOSER !!
I DON'T NEED ANY HELP FROM YOU !!
HEY, ARE YOU --
YOW --

CHATTER
CHATTER
YOU KNOW THAT LEGEND ABOUT WINNING FIRST PLACE AND FINDING YOUR TRUE LOVE?
I MADE IT UP!! ♡
Oh there he is!
HEY.. KANOKO?
YEAH?
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING...
SO THE THING ABOUT PEOPLE FINDING BOYFRIENDS WAS A LIE, TOO?
WELL...
THE FUNNY THING ABOUT THAT...IS IT'S KINDA TRUE. PEOPLE REALLY DID FIND BOYFRIENDS AND GIRLFRIENDS.
WHEN I WAS A FRESHMAN, I THOUGHT, IF I MADE UP A STORY LIKE THAT, PEOPLE WOULD REALLY RUN SERIOUSLY.
HUH?
HAHAHA!
ISN'T THAT AWESOME?!
And now everyone believes it!!

...I REALLY HAVE A LOT OF COMPETITION...
GO! GO!!
GOAL!!
TA DA!!
HEYA! GREAT JOB!!
I'M... GONNA DIE...
WHEEEE
GASP
PANT
COUGH
YOU DID PRETTY DARN GOOD FOR SOMEONE WHO SUCKS AT RUNNING!!
YOU DID GOOD, KANOKO!
Third-year girls' third place
WELL, I DIDN'T GET FIRST, OF COURSE...
ALL RIGHT, THE GUYS ARE STARTING NEXT...
I'll be back, Kiki--
Hah...hah.. I'm gonna be sore all over tomorrow.. how do you do it, Kiki?
...Right?
WOBBLE WOBBLE

YOU SEE, BELIEVING IS EVERYTHING...
BANG
READY... SET...
KYAA
OH! THE BOYS' RACE HAS STARTED !!
LOOK-- THERE'S TSUBAME !!
DASH
MAN!! HE'S REALLY GOING FOR IT!!
DASH
GRRR
DASH !!!

ZOOOOOM
ACCELERATE !!
HE CAN'T KEEP UP THAT PACE--
W--WAS THAT TSUBAME ?
WOW, WHAT A SPRINT !!
HE'S GONNA EXPLODE !!
Whoa
.....WHAT A FOOL..
.....
Does he just want to look cool?
GO FOR IT!
TAIJUU UUUU
KYAAA
TSUBAME ...
I MUSTN'T EXPEND ALL MY ENERGY ON THIS STUPID RACE...
I HAVE DANCE REHEAR-SALS LATER...
DASH
DASH
DASH

WHAT IS THIS GUY'S--
--HE'S FAST!!
SQUEEEEZE
HA HA!
DARN IT!!

YOU DON'T EVEN SO MUCH AS SMILE AT THEM AND THEY LOVE YOU.
BUMP
HEY, YOU, I BET YOU'RE REAL PROUD OF YOURSELF, HUH?
NOT AGAIN ...
DON'T SAY ANYTHING... IGNORE... IGNORE...
.....
WHAT STUPID ADVICE !!
GRR
DASH!
THAT STUPID ...
GIRLS LIKE GUYS WHO SMILE.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY SMILING ONCE IN A WHILE?
POP

chatter
WHO'S IN FIRST PLACE?
WHO IS IT? I CAN'T SEE!!
HERE THEY COME!!
SO HE'S LEADING THE SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS, THEN...
THAT'S SOME SECOND-YEAR STUDENT FROM THE CROSS COUNTRY CLUB...
Figure 8
IT'S...NOT TSUBAME...

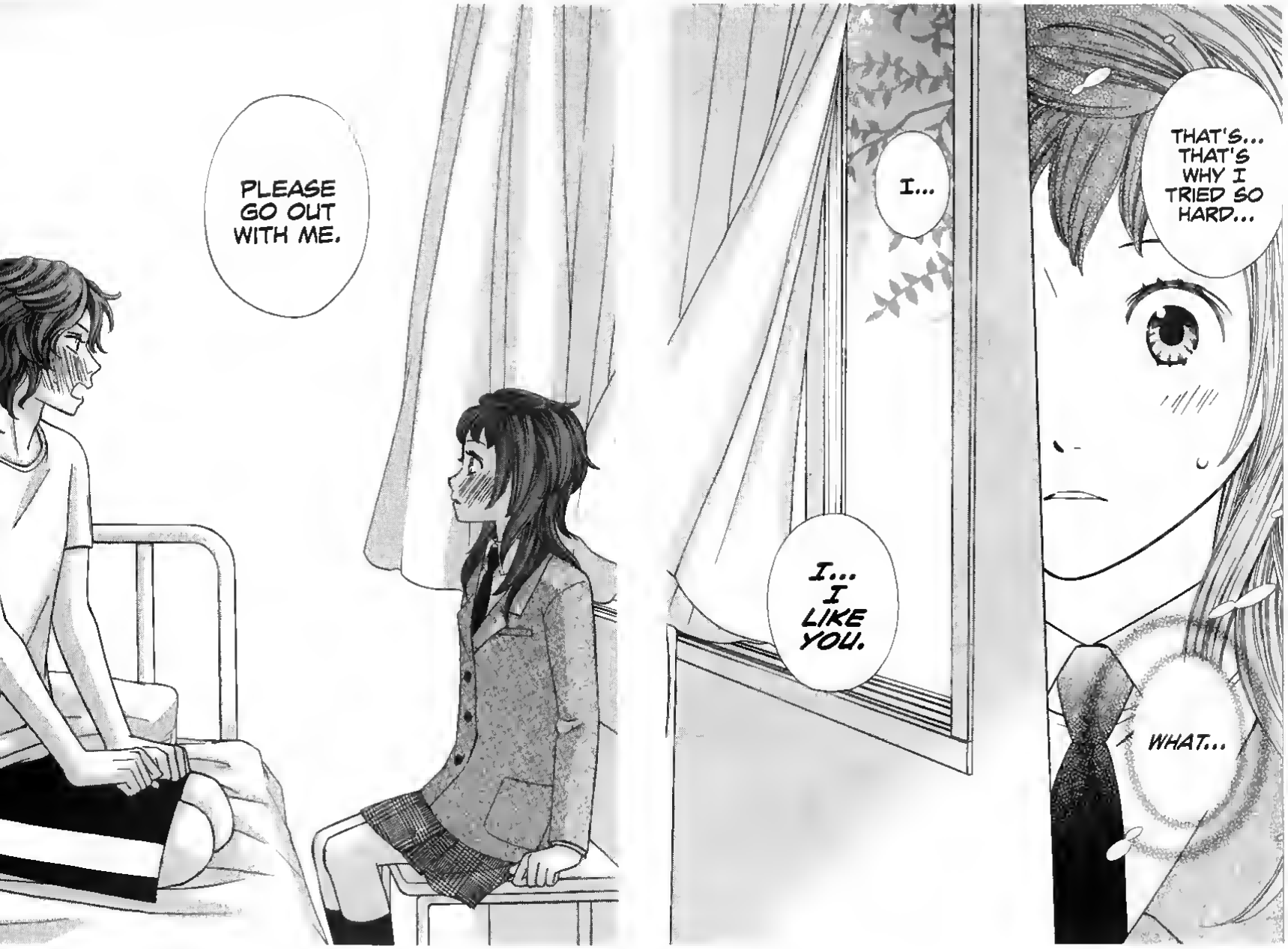
TSUBAME!!
RUN!!
YEAHHH!!
FIRST PLACE, TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA!!
WOW!!

LOOK!
IT'S TSUBAME!!
GET 'IM, TSUBAME!!
GO! GO!!
IT'S NECK AND NECK!!
GO!!

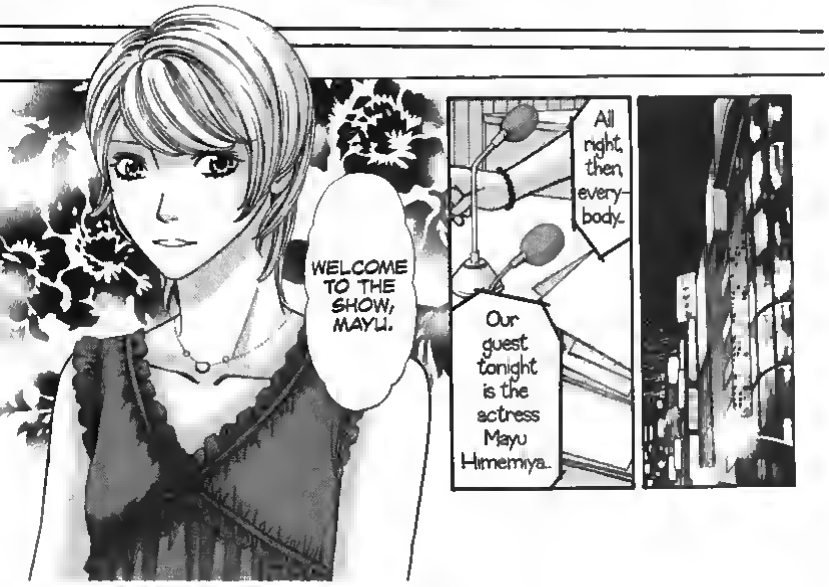
HEY, I'M IN THE DANCE CLUB.
YOU SHOULD JOIN US, HUH?
.....
...SURE!
YAY!
YAY!
YAY!
NURSE'S OFFICE
I...
AHHHHHH
HOORAY
HIP HIP
...WON?
BAM!!
GYAAH
I brought water. Shall we dunk him?
Is he dead?
I SENSE A PATTERN HERE.
YEP, HE'S OUT COLD, ALL RIGHT.
WAHHHH
WOW!!
WOW!!
A TIE FOR FIRST IN THE FIRST-YEAR RACE!!
TAIJU KURIHARA AND HIKARU TSUBAKI!
HEY, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD!!
I'M SERIOUSLY IMPRESSED!!

LISTEN TO ME... IN YOUR DREAM...
ANYWAY...
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE...
THOUGH, UH...
LATELY, TSUBAME, I'VE REALIZED THAT I--
STOP.
WHA...?!
...!?
BOOM
SORRY, I...I HEARD YOU...
YOU... WERE AWAKE?!
WHY WERE YOU PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP?!
I couldn't find the right timing.
HEY, GIVE ME A BREAK- I JUST DID A LOT OF RUNNING--
CLATTER CLATTER
ANYWAY, LET ME SAY IT FIRST.

YOU PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD, TSUBAME...
WE REALLY WORRY ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW...
...TO CONFESS TO YOU TODAY.
HOW CAN I TELL YOU I LIKE YOU IF YOU'RE IN A COMA...
ZZZZZ...
GEE, I... I WAS PLANNING...
...MAN.
He's really adorable..
MAYBE I CAN SAY IT NOW, ANYWAY...


PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME.
I... I LIKE YOU.
I...
THAT'S... THAT'S WHY I TRIED SO HARD...
WHAT...

...I CAN'T BELIEVE PEOPLE CAN BE THIS HAPPY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
...IT SEEMS THE LEGEND STAYS TRUE FOR ANOTHER YEAR!!
I gotta really hand it to myself sometimes!!
WELL, WELL, WELL...
Let's just stay here peeking at the door...
We just wanted to celebrate our victory...!
...I GUESS WE SHOULDN'T GO IN THERE, HUH?
WELL...


WELCOME TO THE SHOW, MAYU.
All right, then, everybody.
Our guest tonight is the actress Mayu Himemiya.

...YES.
I...
...I LIKE YOU, TOO...
AT LAST...
...I WAS ABLE TO TELL THE GUY I LIKE HOW I FEEL ABOUT HIM...
Kanoko! Seriously!!
How do we make it stop!?
...WHA-!!
SOB SOB SOB
KANOKO!! YOU'RE LEAKING!!
Whew!! What a relief!!
YEAH!! AWESOME!!
.....

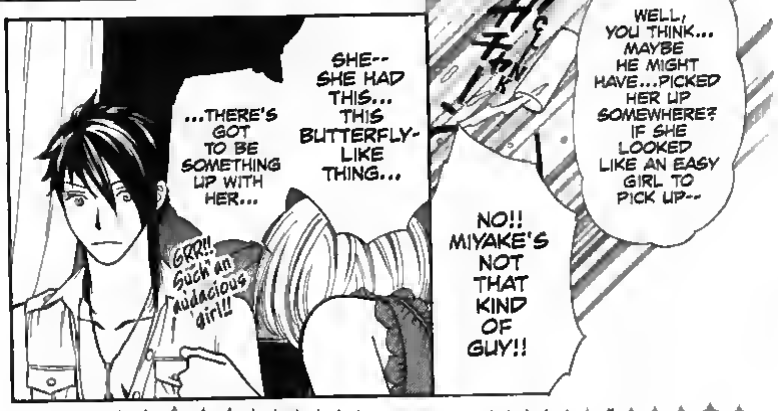
CHAPTER 23
A LOT OF THINGS HAVE BEEN CHANGING ABOUT ME LATELY...
AND THE BIGGEST OF ALL OF THOSE CHANGES ...
HOWEVER ...
...IS THAT I'M NOW FINALLY REALLY TSUBAME'S GIRLFRIEND ...
THE STORY GOES ON...
THERE ARE YET UNSOLVED MYSTERIES IN OUR PAST LIVES...

OH, HEY--
MAYU?
DOES HE REALLY LIKE ME?
...WHY WOULDN'T HE TALK TO ME AFTER THAT?
WHO WAS THAT GIRL ...?
... MIYAKE ...

HEY, IT'S BEEN A WHILE !!

HM?
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER ?
CHAPTER 23/END

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 21
Aquarium


WELL, YOU THINK... MAYBE HE MIGHT HAVE...PICKED HER UP SOMEWHERE? IF SHE LOOKED LIKE AN EASY GIRL TO PICK UP--
NO!! MIYAKE'S NOT THAT KIND OF GUY!!
SHE-- SHE HAD THIS... THIS BUTTERFLY-LIKE THING...
...THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING UP WITH HER...
GRR!! Such an audacious girl!!

Character Guide. #20

Hikaru Tsubaki

Birthday: 7/24
Blood Type: O

Taiju's classmate.
He was neck and neck with Taiju in the race recently, and they finished in a tie. Then they became friends. He's really big into hip-hop dancing. He's had a girlfriend since last year.

A-ARE YOU SURE, ARATA??
I FEEL SO SORRY FOR ALWAYS TEASING YOU IN THE PAST LIFE...
THEN AGAIN, I ONLY DID IT BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE SO CUTE! REALLY !!

ANYWAY! THIS MIYAKE GUY SOUNDS LIKE A REALLY BIG JERK!
IF HE REALLY LIKES YOU LIKE HE SAYS HE DOES, HE WOULDN'T EVEN BE LOOKING AT OTHER GIRLS!
WELL, MAYBE, YEAH.

GOOD MOOOOORNING KANOKO AND TSUBAME ☆ !!
POP POP
BOOM
CONGRATULATIONS ON BECOMING A COUPLE !!
YAYYY
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
CONGRATS
AHHHHHHH
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
.....HUH?
HEY, HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
AWESOME WORK, HIMEMIYA !!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE LOVED BY THE SCHOOL IDOL!?
HEY-- HEY-- WHY DO YOU ALL KNOW THAT... ALREADY?
CONGRATS 4UR LOVE
YO, YO, KANOKO !! YOU'RE GONNA BE A BEST-SELLER !♡
IT'S THE CREATIVE WRITING CLUB'S NEWEST ISSUE!! "DESTINY LOVE 4: CONFESSIONS ...OF LOVE!"

...HMMM.
SO, YOU SAY THIS MIYAKE HAS BEEN FRIENDS WITH TSUBAME FOR A LONG TIME?
YEAH, I HEARD THEY USED TO BE... DATING OR SOMETHING?
Hmm, do you think that girl might have been a guy?
What... is Miyake, anyway?
HEY, HEY, CALM DOWN, MAYU ...
.....
WAAHH
I JUST ...I LIKE HIM! HE'S A NICE GUY !!
I DON'T CARE IF HE'S GAY, OR A HOMO-SEXUAL, OR WHAT !!
Hey, calm down...
DING-DONG

THE GIRLS
LEAVE ME ALONE ALREADY!! GO CHASE TSUBAME AGAIN !!
YOU'RE GREAT, KANOKO! YOU TRIED SO HARD TO MAKE YOURSELF PRETTY AND EVERY-THING!
I'M WEAR-ING CON-TACTS !!
IS IT TRUE YOU GOT SURGERY TO FIX YOUR EYES ?!
THE BOYS
GOOD WORK, TSUBAME !!
YEAH!
DON'T GO MESSING AROUND WITH OTHER GIRLS, NOW!
Now WE can finally get girlfriends!!
SQUEEZE
TIGHTER TIGHTER !!
WOO-WOO !!
OH!! THEY ARE HUGGING !!
HEY--
JUST IGNORE US, OKAY !?
KA-NOKO-CHAA-AAAN.
THIS IS SO GREAT --
EVERYONE IS BEING SO NICE TO US...
WHA--
HOLD

GRRRRR
...YOU ...YOU WROTE A STORY ABOUT US?
And it's... part "Four"?
WELL, UH, THANKS FOR PROVIDING ME THE MATERIAL, I GUESS ?
IT'S REALLY REALLY POPULAR ALL OVER SCHOOL ...
¥4,000 if you want one.
KIKI ?
GRRRRR
WE JUST READ IT!
YOU AND TSU-BAME ARE THE MAIN CHARAC-TERS !!
I cried at the end!!
D-D-DESTINY FOR... LOVE ?
Des
GRRRRR
HEY, HEY! IT'S A "PURE LOVE STORY" --IT'S QUITE BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN.
IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF YOU TWO HELPED ME CREATE WONDERFUL LITERATURE.
No erotic stuff, even!
It's a "crime" You know I think
SO. IF I ASK YOU TO NOT DO THIS IN THE FUTURE, WILL YOU LISTEN ?
That's right!! Congratulations, you two!!
YOU DON'T NEED TO READ THAT-- ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT WE'RE GOING OUT NOW.
GRRR-
TSU-BAME !! DON'T READ THAT!! ↘
How did you know all this, Kiki ?!
WOW! KANOKO! THIS IS GREAT! IT'S JUST AS IT REALLY HAPPENED !!

I won the volleyball game for yooooou, Kanoko !!
KANOKO-CHAAAAAN !!
AT GYM CLASS...
Nice block !!
OOH !!
Kano--?
ATTACK
GET BACK !!
CLEAN UP TIME..
TSUBAME ♥ KANOKO
GYAAA
I can feeed myself !!
Let me feeeed you, my darling !!
AT LUNCH
GAG
THE WALK HOME...
Kanoko! Let's walk home together!
THEY LOOK LIKE PACK ANIMALS FIGHTING OVER LOST YOUNG!
I never thought Kanoko would end up like this..
HAHA HAHAH
SOOO.. THIS IS HOW A COUPLE IS SUPPOSED TO ACT ?
GYAAA
GYAAA

WHAP
GRR!!
BAM
HEY-- KANOKO ??
Domestic violence !!
A lover's quarrel!
WOO-H
My... chin...
STOMP STOMP
TSUBAME, YOU FOOL!!
...ME AND TSUBAME BECAME THE MOST FAMOUS COUPLE IN SCHOOL.
AND THAT WAS HOW...
Hey. Who are you, again ?
WELL, THEY'D BETTER ENJOY THIS WHILE IT LASTS ..
Well, maybe not...
...NEXT, KIKI WILL BE WRITING A STORY ABOUT TSUBAME AND ME...
DON'T YOU THINK THAT WAS A BIT TOO MUCH ?

YOUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH ME.
YOU GOT FIRST IN THE RACE, THOUGH, SO YOU'LL MEET SOMEONE SOON.
I already have a girlfriend, actually.
AHAHA
HM!!
N--
OF COURSE I DON'T !!
OH, I GET IT--
YOU WANT A GIRLFRIEND, TOO, HUH?
AWW, JUST WHEN WE WERE GETTING TO BE LIKE BROTHERS!
WHAT ARE YOU SO MAD FOR?
HEY..

shrrr
.....
gurgle

I NEED TO GET AWAY FROM ALL OF THESE... PEOPLE.
Look! It's the destined lovers!
Hey, Tsubame, where you two goin'? Wait up!
WHY THE HECK DOES IT HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS?
I JUST WANT TO GO OUT WITH TSUBAME, LIKE A NORMAL COUPLE.
THE TALK OF THE SCHOOL
YO, TAIJU, WHAT'S UP?
THOSE KIDS SURE ARE POPULAR ALL OF A SUDDEN, HUH?
SHE... WASN'T LYING WHEN SHE SAID SHE WASN'T GOING OUT WITH ARATA...
...WHAT THE HECK?

Bunnies!!
ANYWAY, YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT I HEARD...
I HEARD YOU HAD SOME SORT OF OLDER WOMAN STAYING HERE THE OTHER NIGHT!
OH! YOU'RE MAKING CURRY!
AND IT'S THAI CURRY, NO LESS!
You've got good taste!
THANKS FOR HAVIN' ME ♥!!
I WAS JUST THINKIN', MAYBE YOU COULD INTRODUCE HER TO ME!!
I HAVE NO WORDS FOR YOU.
OH, OH! I'M NOT ACCUSING YOU OR ANYTHING! JUST SAYIN', IF YOU WANNA TALK--
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

I JUST GOT THIS FUNNY LITTLE FEELING ...
...THAT MAYBE SHE AND I MIGHT HAVE SIMILAR... THUMBS.

...WHAT IS IT?
AZUSA-P
F*CK
YO!
MAYU TOLD ME YOUR ADDRESS.
I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE IN THE RAIN. I'M SOAKED! CAN I COME IN?
From the whole, um, incident with Kaneko.
I'M REALLY SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN-- YOU REMEMBER ME, RIGHT?

MY GUESS IS...
...YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH TSUBAME IN THE PAST LIFE...
AND THAT'S WHY YOU GOT THE [redacted] TATTOO AS HIS BELOVED "AGEMAKI."
AND BECAUSE YOUR BELOVED TSUBAME WAS TAKEN BY THIS "AGEMAKI ..."
...EVEN AFTER REBIRTH, YOU WANT TO PREVENT HIM FROM MEETING HER AGAIN.
AM I RIGHT?
WHOA, WHOA, DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY.
I DON'T MEAN TO PRY...
.....
WRONG

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
GRAB
LET ME TELL YOU, I KNOW THE WHOLE STORY.
THEN WHY WON'T YOU TELL MAYU ABOUT HER?
YOU MADE MAYU CRY, DO YOU KNOW THAT?
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT GIVES YOU THAT IDEA.
OH? OH?
I HEAR YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH TSUBAME, RIGHT?
WHAT-- WHO WERE YOU IN THE PAST LIFE?
WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS BIRTHMARK, TOO?
YOU HAVE THE SAME BIRTHMARK, DON'T YOU?
AND...IT'S ON YOUR RIGHT HAND... JUST LIKE "AGEMAKI..."

"WELL...
...THAT MEANS YOU'RE BETRAYING HIM, DOESN'T IT?"
...NO.
"AGEMAKI..."

WELL...
THAT MEANS YOU'RE BETRAYING HIM, DOESN'T IT?
I JUST CAN'T HELP MYSELF, THOUGH...
--SEE, I THINK, IF YOU'RE HIDING THIS "AGEMAKI" FROM TSUBAME...
IF YOU MAKE ANY EFFORT TO KEEP HIM FROM MEETING HIS BELOVED...
...YOU'RE FAILING HIM AS A FRIEND!!
ANYWAY, THANKS FOR THE TALK.
SEE YA.
SLAM

SHRRRRRRR
ME AND TSUBAME PLANNED TO GO ON A REAL DATE.
...AND THE DRY SEASON BEGAN.
AND SOON ENOUGH, THE RAINY SEASON ENDED...
WHEW
ALL RIGHT... LOOKS LIKE NO ONE FOLLOWED US.
OH, WAIT A SEC...
I tied my hair up for a change!
WOW!! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO COME TO THE AQUARIUM!
HEY, KANOKO...
...IS IT TRUE? DO YOU REALLY LIKE ME?
DEEK DEEK
YEAH, ME, TOO!!
dash
THAT WAS-- THAT WAS THE SCHOOL'S FAULT!!
Don't you wanna cuddle?
I MEAN, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT? THAT MEANS WE'RE SUPPOSED TO, LIKE, CUDDLE, AND HUGGLE AND KISSGLE, RIGHT?
WELL... I DON'T KNOW, I WANT TO... CUDDLE WITH YOU...?
~Yesterday~
I MEAN, YOU KEEP PUSHING ME AWAY LATELY...
WHAT?!
COLD
AND NOW YOU'RE... PUNCHING ME, AND STUFF!
You were so lovely when you confessed to me...
NO, WAIT...
POP
...THIS... ISN'T HOW COUPLES NORMALLY ARE, RIGHT?
NO!! NOT... NOT IN... PUBLIC!?
Right here!!
IF YOU LOVE ME, KISS ME RIGHT NOW!! PLEASE!!
HOW THE HECK...
You shouldn't think about it so much!!
HMMM...
Maybe you just have the wrong idea?
...ALL RIGHT...
...THEN, AT LEAST... HOLD MY HAND?
GIRL
N-NO!!
I LIKE YOU!
I REALLY DO!!
WELL! I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU HATE ME NOW, HUH?
HUH!!
GUY

I'M NOT GOING TO SEARCH FOR AGEMAKI ANYMORE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
...THANKS...
I'll make it look like a flower!
BRUSH BRUSH
I CAN PAINT YOURS, TOO...
BECAUSE I HAVE YOU, KANOKO...!!
TSUBAME WAS MINDFUL ALL ALONG...
HE... REALLY DOES LIKE ME...
Hee Hee!

...I CAN'T LET HIM REMEMBER "AGEMAKI" AGAIN...!!
NO... WAIT... OUR BIRTH-MARKS ON OUR THUMBS...
...OH.
...UM, SURE?
OH...
IT'S OKAY!!
WOOSH
...OH.
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE BIRTH-MARKS?
SO NOW OUR BIRTH-MARKS CAN TOUCH!!
TA-DA!! ♪
I COVERED IT UP WITH NAIL POLISH!

OOOH, LOOK AT THE JELLY-FISH!
THEY'RE SO... CLEAR !!
And they're glowing !!
I THINK IF I'M REBORN AGAIN, I WANNA BE A JELLY-FISH...
Just floating carelessly in the sea for my whole life...
OOH! ME, TOO !!
OH, LOOK-- THOSE TWO JELLY-FISH'S LEGS (TENTA-CLES?) ARE ALL INTER-TWINED !!
...I THINK THEY'RE STUCK !!
UH.....
IT WOULD BE KINDA HARD TO FLOAT, THOUGH ?
Aha hah
HEY, IF ME AND YOU BECOME JELLY-FISH...
...WE SHOULD GET TANGLED UP LIKE THAT, TOO...
...
THAT WAY ...
...WE WOULD NOT GET LOST, OR LONELY ...

SORRY... TSUBAME!
WOW!! ☆
A STINGRAY! ♡ It's HUGE!!
SEA OTTERS!!
Oh WOW!
Adorable!!
Oh my god they're SO cute !!
They're so fuzzy !!
CUDDLE
CRABS!!
Hey, that one's got chubby legs!!
SARDINES!!
Man, I wonder if they ever get tired of just going around in circles all day?
Do you think it's true that tuna die if they stop swimming?
Hey, let's get some ice cream !!

YAY!! ♡
THANKS FOR KISSING ME, KANOKO ♡!!
HIP, HIP, HOORAY!!
HEY, CALM DOWN!!
STRETTCH
OW!!
NOT SO FAST!!
SQUISH
I TOLD YOU DON'T EMBARRASS ME!!
...YOU'RE EMBARRASSED?
That hurt...
WHY NOT?
...TRY GETTING IT... HERE?
♡ LIP ♡
... NEXT TIME ...
THOUGH, UH...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CALM DOWN?!

HE WAS SUCH A LONELY KID...
THAT'S RIGHT...
ALL HE EVER WANTED WAS SOME LOVE...
SO... I... HAVE TO...
?
HE'S LIKE A JELLY-FISH...
HE'S... TRANS-PARENT... CARE-FREE... AND THAT'S...
...WHY I LOVE HIM.

SPLASH!!
SPLOOSH
Wow!! Dolphins!!
Hey, Kanoko...
So cute!!
Next, he'll jump through this ring!!
Well done, Kenta!!
WH--WHAT??!
Wait, wait--
What do you--
I'm trying to watch the dolph--
Kanoko.
No one will see us here.
They're all looking at the dolphins.
Don't look at the dolphins. Look at...
me.

Well, kind of?
Also, we need to mind our manners at school. And stuff.
Kanoko's like a samurai or somethin'...
The law
...Aha!!
So that's why you stayed away from me at school?
Blush
Because, you know, you shouldn't be. Like, at all!!
Not at all!!
Well-- we're... outside. In public...
...someone might see us!!
And then they might call the police or something!!
All right. Then let's just act like friends at school.
Yes! We'll act normally.
Well, either way, it's better than you hating me...
That doesn't mean it's okay to cheat on me!!
Of course I won't!!
Hey.
Let's go over here.

OH MY...
WHY AM I BEING SO CAUTIOUS OF OUR SURROUNDINGS?
EVEN THOUGH I KEEP THINKING I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR TSUBAME...
OH...
...TSUBAME HAS REALLY LONG EYELASHES...
FROM MY FINGERTIPS TO MY LIPS...
...I FEEL FULL OF TSUBAME'S WARMTH...
CLAP CLAP CLAP
WOW!!
SHIVER

THANK YOU FOR READING!? ②

CONTINUED!

I haven't had anyone read my past lives before, though I'd kind of like to give it a try.

MY FRIEND SAYS...

I'm pretty sure I was just a plain Japanese person in my past life...

You know, you're a lot different from any Japanese people I know-- I think maybe, in a past life, you were a Gypsy!!

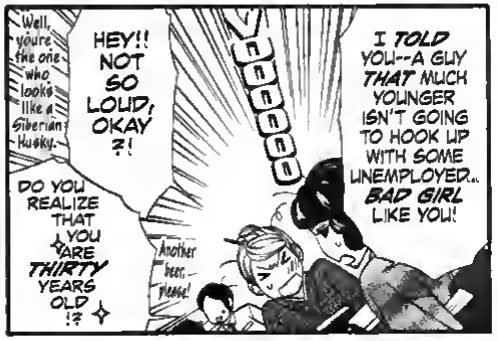
...why?

You know, I really like cloth imported from Bali... maybe I might have been a traveling merchant from Bali in a past life?

DO YOU THINK CATS HAVE PAST LIVES, TOO?

It's kind of fun to think about what your friends were in their past lives.

I need to make an appointment with my dermatologist
OHH, LOOK AT MY SKIN. WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME...
SPIN
HMMM... WHAT ABOUT THAT YOUNGER GUY YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT A WHILE AGO?
DOES THAT MEAN HE DUMPED YOU?


Well, you're the one who looks like a Siberian Husky.
HEY!! NOT SO LOUD, OKAY?!
I TOLD YOU--A GUY THAT MUCH YOUNGER ISN'T GOING TO HOOK UP WITH SOME UNEMPLOYED... BAD GIRL LIKE YOU!
DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOU ARE THIRTY YEARS OLD!?
Another beer, please!

I'M SO GLAD YOU WERE FREE TONIGHT, MISAKI...
OH, ANYTHING TO HELP YOU OUT, GINKO...
...I DIDN'T EXPECT THE PART-TIME GIRL TO QUIT...
I'M ALL ALONE IN THE WORLD, YOU KNOW.
SO I DO GET KIND OF LONELY SOME-TIMES.
HEY, MISAKI--
CAN YOU TAKE THIS TO THE TABLE IN THE BACK?
SURE.

AND, WELL ...
MISAKI-- IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE A GEISHA, THAT'S FINE. WHY NOT TRY DANCING AGAIN, THOUGH?
WHY BOTHER? JAPANESE TRADITIONAL DANCE IS TOTALLY UNPOPULAR THESE DAYS...
...THE ONLY PERSON I WANT TO SEE ME DANCE IS ALREADY GONE...
YOU...
...YOU'RE NOT STILL GRIEVING YOSHIHIRO, ARE YOU?
I WAS IN LOVE WITH HIM...
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS THIRTY YEARS OLDER THAN ME...
...WE JUST SEEMED LIKE A PERFECT MATCH...
THE HARDEST THING...
...WAS THAT I UNDERSTOOD HOW WONDERFUL HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE...

WOW!! Look at that!!
YOU WERE GORGEOUS IN THOSE DAYS, MY DEAR...
Kyaaa
OH MY GOD! PUT THAT PICTURE AWAY RIGHT NOW!!
WIG
LOOK! LOOK AT YOU! LOOK HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU WERE FOUR YEARS AGO!!
THERE WOULD HAVE NOT BEEN ONE PERSON IN THE GEISHA WORLD WHO DID NOT KNOW THE NAME OF "KOCHOU" ("LITTLE BUTTERFLY").
IN THE EDO PERIOD, YOU'D HAVE BEEN THE QUEEN OF ASAKUSA ...
HEY!
IT'S TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T CUT IT AS A GEISHA!
ALL THAT DRINKING! ALL THOSE MEN!!
Shut up already!!
Really!
YOUR DANCING WAS AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE FLUTTERING OF A BUTTERFLY ...
THOUGH I HAD MORE EXPERIENCE DANCING THAN YOU, I WAS ABLE TO NOTICE YOUR SKILL...

I WILL MEET MY "TRUE LOVE..." AND I WILL BECOME HAPPY.
THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GIVING UP YET...
KA
SHUNK
CHATTER
HUH?
ISN'T THAT--
WELCOME!

I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN ...
AND THEN... HE DIED.
I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF... I WANTED HIM TO DIVORCE HER AND MARRY ME...
ALL I WANTED WAS TO SEE HIM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ...
SNIFF
MISAKI ...
I'M ALL RIGHT, NOW!
SOMEONE WHO'LL STAY WITH ME FOREVER ...
I FEEL LIKE HE'LL SHOW UP SOON ...
MY "TRUE LOVE..."
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP YET!
I HAVE A FEELING SOMEONE IS GOING TO SHOW UP SOON!

I BELIEVE THIS IS YOURS?
HERE.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR A LONG TIME...
"...AGE-MAKI."
UHM... YES?
WH-WHY DO YOU HAVE IT?
THIS... IT'S THE HAIR CLIP I HAD FOREVER...
I kinda threw it at Miya though.
AGE...
...MAKI?
OH, YES.
COME WITH ME. LET ME SHOW YOU YOUR "TRUE LOVE--"

...UM...!?
I'M SORRY. I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
He looks even more manly in person!!!
UH... UH...!!
YOU KNOW HIM?
KYAA!!
HEY, HEY-- ISN'T THAT ARATA FROM SPLASH!?
THERE YOU ARE.
NICE TO MEET YOU. YOU'RE KOCHOU, RIGHT?
UH...
...UM... YES!
AHA...
DO ANY OF YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND "KOCHOU?"

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 24
Love; Fireworks

CHAPTER 23/END
PASH

AREN'T YOU SET TO INHERIT YOUR FATHER'S SHOP?
YOU MUSTN'T TAKE...SUCH A WOMAN AS YOUR WIFE I DO BELIEVE YOUR FATHER WOULD NOT APPROVE.
OH, HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH THINGS ...
...SUKE-ROKU ...
...WHY, EVEN NOW HE DISCUSSES DENYING ME THE INHER-ITANCE ...
NO MAT-TER!
I THINK I'VE SHOCKED HIM MORE THAN ENOUGH ...
I'LL THROW IT ALL AWAY, AND LIVE TOGETHER WITH YOU.
IF HE DOES THIS, I'LL BE FAR FROM UNFOR-TUNATE... I'LL BE FREE.
...SUKEROKU...
IF SO, WOULD YOU COME WITH ME?

Character Guide: #21

Reiko Himemiya

Birthday: 6/21
Blood Type: B

She's Kanoko and Mayu's mother. She used to be a very famous actress under the stage name Reiko Natsume; then, following an accident, she became unable to use her legs, and had to retire. Now she mostly stays at home and enjoys flower arrangements and tea.

...THAT WAS THE MAN I LOVED...
YES... SUKE-ROKU...
DID YOU REMEMBER ?
KOCHOU...
POO
THAT MAN IS YOUR "TRUE LOVE."

I... I...
I... WANT TO BE WITH YOU AS WELL.
WHAT IS THIS... A MEMORY ?
YOU AND I CAN NEVER BE APART ...
AS LONG AS WE HAVE THESE MARKS ON OUR THUMBS ...
THEN IT'S SETTLED !
I HAVE HEARD YOUR PROMISE !!
IS THAT GIRL IN THE KIMONO... ME?
...AND WHO IS THIS "SUKE-ROKU?"

GYAAA-AARGH!!
ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS MAKE SOME MONEY WITH YOUR DUMB STORIES!!
WHY DON'T YOU WRITE A LOVE STORY ABOUT YOURSELF, HUH?
THAT'S PRETTY IRRESPONSIBLE OF YOU! HOW CAN YOU SET A POSITIVE EXAMPLE FOR YOUR PEERS IF THEY DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS OF YOUR LOVE AFFAIR?
IT'S NOT A "LOVE AFFAIR"!!
THE AUTHOR'S PRIDE
Um, boss... shouldn't you be studying for exams this summer?
EVEN IF I HAD PLANS, I WOULDN'T TELL YOU.
UH... DUH?
MATERIAL FOR MY NEXT STORY, OF COURSE!!
There is no "vacation" position on the "author" switch!!
The ice is melting, guys
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?
Sigh
NOT SURE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WOULD UNDERSTAND MY LOVE STORY...
A LOVE STORY ABOUT ME?
GYAAA-AARGH!!
GRAB
KANOKO KISSED ME ON THE CHEEK!!
AND THEN, I KISSED HER ON THE LI--
I WANT YOUR LOVE STORY-- YOUR SWEET, PURE LOVE STORY!!
SO TELL ME!! WHAT HAPPENED IN THE AQUARIUM??
I FORGOT ALREADY!!
scribble scribble

THAT MAN'S REINCARNATION IS SEARCHING FOR YOU...
HIS NAME IS "TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA"...!
OH NO... IT'S MELTING!! MELTING!!
I BROUGHT ICE!!
IF YOU GUYS PLAN ON GOING ANYWHERE, DO PLEASE INFORM ME FIRST!!
SUMMER VACATION STARTS TOMORROW!
It too hot!
DA DA DA
UH... WHY? WHY DO WE HAVE TO TELL YOU?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO.....
WHY DON'T WE TRY TO GET THE TWO OF THEM TO MEET?
"How he is?"
AND, WELL, MIKE'S... YOU KNOW HOW HE IS.
IT SEEMS LIKE MAYU REALLY WANTS TO TALK TO MIKE...SHE JUST DOESN'T HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY ...
NAIL SET
I'LL BRING MIKE, AND YOU CAN BRING MAYU ?
WE CAN BE LIKE, "OH, WHAT A COINCI-DENCE !!"
HEY, YEAH-- I THINK THERE'S GONNA BE FIREWORKS NEAR HERE NEXT WEEK, WHY DON'T WE GO TO THAT?
WE CAN CALL THIS "MISSION: MIKE + MAYU ...OR SOME-THING ?
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA !!
GREAT IDEA ♡!!
FIRE-WORKS !! SUCH A LOVELY EVENT !! SO... SUMMERY ! ♡
I'LL WEAR A KIMONO !
REALLY ? AWESOME !!
I'LL TEXT MAYU !!
I'LL SEND A TEXT MES-SAGE TO MIKE!!
click CLICK click CLICK click
Typing fast.

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
SO ANYWAY ...
WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS YET, DO WE? FOR SUMMER ?
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE JUST THE TWO OF US... WE CAN INVITE THE OTHERS, I GUESS ?
As long as they behave, that is.
YEAH! YOU'RE RIGHT!
WHAT ABOUT MIKE? CAN HE COME, TOO?
MIKE'S BEEN KINDA GIVING ME THE COLD SHOULDER LATELY ...
It's so sad...
HE DOESN'T EVEN TRY TO TALK TO ME ANYMORE ...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, WE DON'T.
COME TO THINK OF IT, MAYU'S BEEN KIND OF SULKY LATELY, TOO.
SHE WAS SAYING, "MIYAKE HAS ANOTHER GIRL!"
THAT'S TOTALLY GOTTA BE A MISUNDER-STANDING !!
THERE'S NO WAY THERE'S ANYONE MIKE LIKES MORE THAN ME !!
WHOA-- HE'S... PRETTY SURE ABOUT THAT...
So does that mean I'm not your girl-friend, or what?

AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL...
..WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE IT?
THAT BOY IS THE REINCARNATION OF "SUKEROKU..."
I... I...
I NEED TO SEE HIM... AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
COME ON, HURRY! THE FIREWORKS ARE GONNA START!!
GAAA GUTA
I CAN'T WALK FAST IN THIS KIMONO!
"IF YOU MAKE ANY EFFORT TO KEEP HIM FROM MEETING HIS BELOVED..."
...YOU'RE FAILING HIM AS A FRIEND!!"

EAVESDROPPERS!
How convenient of us to be standing right here in this door?
SWOOOSH
MIKE AND MAYU WILL PATCH THINGS UP...
...AND THEN WE'LL ALL GO ON A KIMONO DATE!!
WOW, THEY'RE ACTING LIKE A COUPLE ALREADY...
I KNOW...
...I MET TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA...
...ONE YEAR AGO.
AT FIRST IT WAS LIKE A DREAM...
...THOUGH SOON IT BECAME QUITE DISTINCT...
I HAVE REMEMBERED...

DIDN'T YOU?
MIYA. LET ME MEET TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA.
.....
YOU DO, DON'T YOU?!
YOU TALKED TO ME BECAUSE YOU REMEMBERED ME FROM THE PAST LIFE, DIDN'T YOU?
...WHO?
LIAR!!
YOU WENT TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL!!
MIYA, YOU KNOW HIM, DON'T YOU?
YOU KNOW THAT HE AND I WERE IN LOVE, LONG AGO, RIGHT?
YOU... REALIZE HOW MUCH I TRULY LOVE HIM, DON'T YOU!?

I'M SORRY...
...I KNOW I SHOULDN'T COME HERE.
"THAT MEANS...
...YOU'RE BETRAYING HIM, DOESN'T IT?"
I...
...I UNDERSTOOD WHY I COULDN'T LET YOU GO...
I REMEMBERED... I MET YOU, LONG AGO...
...MIYA.
...DO YOU BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION?

PRETENDING LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING !!
BEFORE YOU REMEMBER EVERYTHING, YOU NEED TO FORGET ...
WHAT THE--HEY !!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT !!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE TOLD YOU...
THOUGH WHATEVER MEMORIES RETURNED TO YOU ARE MEANINGLESS.
IF YOU TRULY WISH TO MEET HIM THAT MUCH...
...YOU SHOULD REMEMBER ...
...WHAT YOU DID BACK THEN.

"...LOVE?"
YES!
THIS MARK IS A SIGN OF OUR LOVE!
IT MEANS WE WILL BE TOGETHER AGAIN!
YOU...
...ARE LYING.
YOU WERE NEVER IN LOVE WITH "SUKEROKU".
WH-WHAT THE HECK ?
I...I REALLY WAS! I REMEMBERED !!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU TOLD ARATA ABOUT ME!
ARATA... HE SAID... HE SAID TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA AS "SUKEROKU" REBORN

INCOMING CALL: TSUBAME
DRRRRRRRING
IT SAYS "TSUBAME !!"
WAIT~!!
DRRRRRRRING
THAT'S...
DRRRRRRRING
BANG BANG
YOU SAID YOU WERE COMING TO THE FIREWORKS TONIGHT, RIGHT?
WE'RE, UH... ALREADY HERE?
KYAH!
Can you hear me?
HELLO-OOOO? MIKE?
CHATTER CHATTER
OH MY...
..THAT VOICE...
QUICK! GET HERE BEFORE THE FIREWORKS START !!

...I... REMEMBERED...
"UTSU-SEMI..."
...THAT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW?
YOU WERE SCUM. NO MAN WANTED YOU. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ONTO.

OHHHH!! ♡
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NECK...
CHATTER
YAKI
BAKED NOODLES
焼
YOU THERE... GIRLS N KIMONOS?
WANT TO WATCH THE FIRE-WORKS WITH US?
SPIN
CHATTER
GUH!!

TSUBAME!!
I'M ON MY WAY!!
CHATTER
click
OH! THERE HE IS!
OH, TSUBAME, YOU'RE... ALONE?
...HUH?
CHATTER
DON'T INTERFERE!!
I'M GOING TO MEET TSUBAME...
HELLO-OOOO, KANOKO ♡!!
MY, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE!!

KANOKO-- YOU LOOK SO GOOD IN A KIMONO !!
KYAA
KYAA
AND YOU LOOK REALLY GREAT IN A KIMONO, TOO!
HAPPY COUPLE MODE
AND YOUR RING! IT'S THE RING I MADE FOR YOU!
YEP! IT'S SO CUTE!!
I LOVE FESTIVALS ...
...THEY REMIND ME OF WHEN I WAS A KID...
...THE PEOPLE AND THE CITY ALL FEEL SO TOTALLY DIFFERENT ...
OKAY, I THINK I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
AHAHAH NOT AS CUTE AS YOU, TSUBAME
IT'S NOT AS CUTE AS YOU KANOKO !!
slink slink
SLIP

It's a revenge-seeking samurai spirit !!
SWOOSH SWOOSH
KYAAA KYAAA
VENG-EANCE !! KyaHahaHah
KIKI INCOGNITO
YOU'D ALMOST THINK SHE WAS... YOUNGER ?
SCARY ALIEN MASK
YOUR SISTER'S FUNNY!
WHERE DID YOU BUY THAT MASK ?
AWESOME !!
MAYU INCOGNITO
WAAA!
THIS THING WILL BE REALLY USEFUL !!
ANYWAY, TSUBAME... IS MIKE COMING OR WHAT?
HE SAID HE WAS COMING ...
TEE-HEE
I'M SURE HE'LL COME!! I BELIEVE !!
MORE IMPORTANLY ...
IT'S TOO NOISY HERE; I COULDN'T HEAR HIM TOO WELL ON THE PHONE...
MANNNN, IF MIKE DOESN'T SHOW UP, THE OPERATION IS A FAILURE!

BONK
HEY, TSUBAME, WAIT A SECOND-- MAYU'S --
OWW!
Hey, Kanoko!! Wait!!
HEY! WHY THE HECK ISN'T MIKE HERE YET?!
BLARG
WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL JUST WATCH THE FIRE-WORKS WITHOUT HIM.
...TSUBAME?
S-SORRY TSUBAME ...
I think I broke my cranium

IT'S SO WONDERFUL ...
cradle cradle
POP
BANG
OH!!
THE FIRE-WORKS ARE START-ING!
ドオ
BANG

BA
NG
SU.....
"...SUKE-ROKU!!"
DON
...HUH?

THAT GIRL...
...SHE'S THE ONE THAT WAS AT MIYAKE'S HOUSE...
WH...
...WHAT DID SHE JUST SAY?
SUKEROKU...?
"AGEMAK!...?"
...AND...

"..... AGE-MAKI ..."
.....
...HH...?
B-BANG
HEY, HEY. YYY
OH, THERE YOU ARE-- KAN-OKO-OOOO !!
B-BANG
POP

THE ONE TSUBAME'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR FOR SO LONG...
OH MY GOD...
...HE MADE A PROMISE WITH HER IN THE "PAST LIFE..."
...SHE IS THE OTHER "AGEMAKI..."
...WHAT DO I DO...
HE...HE JUST MET HIS "DESTINED LOVE..."
...I'M...
I'M SORRY.
I'M...HERE WITH MY GIRLFRIEND.

UH...
...UH...
DO YOU... REMEMBER ME?
YOU HAVE THIS BIRTHMARK, TOO, RIGHT?
I... ...I MISSED YOU!!

HE'S MY "DESTINED LOVE" ...AND... AND...
--TSUBAME--
--OUCH--
WH--
MY HAND !!
.....
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.
OH!!
SLAP
--SORRY.

OH...
SPIN
SQUEEZE
W--
WAIT!!
THIS IS IT!
HE IS SUKEROKU ...
I MET TSUBAME ...
JUST...
THAT GIRL HE'S WITH ...
...HIS "GIRL-FRIEND?"
...HE ALREADY HAS A GIRL-FRIEND?
... WHO'S THAT ...?

WELL... I'LL... SEE YOU LATER ?
.....
...WHA --
...WHAT'S WRONG?
MY... RING IS GONE !!
OH MY GOD... I MUST HAVE DROPPED IT!!
DON'T WORRY.
I'LL GO BACK AND LOOK FOR IT.
I'M--
I'M SO SORRY-- TSUBAME ...

...TSUBAME DIDN'T SAY A WORD TO ME.
ON THE BUS BACK HOME...
HE...
..HAD THIS PAINED LOOK ON HIS FACE THE WHOLE TIME.
SO I HELD ON TO HIS KIMONO SLEEVE INSTEAD.
I...
...I WANTED TO HOLD HIS HAND AND HE WOULDN'T LET ME.

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 25
The Promise

...TELL ME, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
...DON'T GO...
TSUBAME...
...I'M SCARED...
...ARE YOU GOING THERE TO MEET HER...?
THERE WAS...
...NOTHING I COULD SAY.
CHAPTER 24 END

AND THAT GIRL WITH YOU AND TSUBAME ...?
THAT WAS HER!! THAT WAS THE GIRL FROM MIYAKE'S HOUSE!!
SLAM
STOMP STOMP
BANG
KANOKO !! WHY DID YOU DITCH ME!?
OWWW
.....REALLY?
... THEN... SHE'S ...
...SHE'S THE "AGEMAKI" TSUBAME WAS SEARCHING FOR?
SO SHE'S ...
...NOT MIKE'S GIRLFRIEND ?
DID HE KNOW SHE WAS "AGEMAKI" WHEN HE MET HER?

TSUBAME FINALLY MET THE GIRL HE'D BEEN SEARCHING FOR, THE REINCARNATION OF "AGEMAKI..."
...THE "DESTINED LOVE" HE'D COMMITTED SUICIDE WITH IN THE PAST LIFE...
SO... WHAT AM I TO HIM, THEN ?
...OH, THIS IS TERRIBLE ...
I FEEL A GREAT FEAR...
KANOKO !!

Character Guide. #22

Misaki Kasugano

Birthday 3/26
Blood Type B

The reincarnation of the "Agemaki" Tsubame's been searching for Arata helped her remember her past life; however, she hasn't yet remembered everything. She's already 30 years old, and is eager to settle down with a nice guy as soon as possible. Her hobbies include skin treatments.

HE SAID HE COULDN'T FIND THE RING.
My apologies. I'll keep looking for it.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE. IT WAS MY FAULT...
AND YET ...
...
...
KANO ...
ME AND TSUBAME SET UP OUR NEXT DATE...
ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS SEEING HIM.
We should have set the meeting point inside somewhere
It's HOT!
AND THEN ...
...HE DIDN'T SHOW UP.
... TSUBAME DIDN'T CALL ME UNTIL SEVERAL DAYS LATER.
HE WON'T LEAVE YOU FOR HER... RIGHT?
BECAUSE YOU'RE TSUBAME'S GIRLFRIEND NOW!!
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT !!
Right?

HE DIDN'T LIKE THAT TSUBAME WAS SEARCHING FOR "AGEMAKI."
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, MIKE WAS OPPOSED ...
HUH?
YOU THINK MAYBE HE WAS TRYING TO KEEP THEM FROM MEETING ?
...OH!!
THEN WHY DIDN'T MIYAKE TELL US ANYTHING ?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
EITHER WAY, THEY DID MEET AGAIN ...
WAS THERE SOMETHING BETWEEN HER AND MIYAKE IN THE PAST LIFE?
WASN'T "AGEMAKI" TOTALLY TSUBAME'S SUPER-LOVER OR SOMETHING?
WHY?

SHE SAW THEM!
TSUBAME AND SOME SCARY-LOOKING WOMAN-GIRL...
I...I SAW THEM... JUST THE TWO OF THEM...
YOU DITCHED US AT THE FIRE-WORKS FESTIVAL... DIDN'T YOU? KAMEKO WAS SAYING--
UH...
THERE ARE RUMORS ALL OVER SCHOOL ...
"TSUBAME IS CHEATING!!" THEY'RE SAYING...
...TSUBAME!!
...OH...

AND THE NEXT DAY...
HE'S PROB-ABLY TROU-BLED ...
...MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME ANY-MORE ?
WHAT THE HECK IS HE DOING ?
WHAT DOES HE MEAN, "SUDDEN APPOINT-MENT--??"
I GUESS I GOT PRETTY MAD AT HIM FOR THAT.
So I took my mom to Karuizawa...
...DIDN'T SEE TSUBAME FOR THE WHOLE SUMMER VACATION.
I...
HEY-- KANO-KO !!
YO! YO YO !!
Long time no see!!
HOW ARE YOU AND TSUBAME DOIN'?
IT WAS A TERRIBLE SUMMER.

SO HE REALLY WAS STILL LOOKING FOR HER! THAT JERK !!
KINOKO! DO YOU WANT ME TO GO WRANGLE HIM UP ?!
I'LL HAVE HIM IN A SEC--
...KANOKO
...SO-OOO-OOO...
THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT BY A "SUDDEN APPOINTMENT..."
GRRRRR GRRRR
THAT'S WHY YOU WEREN'T MEETING ME...
...YOU WERE MEETING YOUR PRECIOUS AGE-MAKI.
GRRRR
YOU LIED TO ME...
...AND YOU RAN AWAY FROM YOUR LIE...
KANO..
YOU NO GOOD, ROTTEN ----
DON'T THINK YOU CAN HIDE FROM ME !!
NOOOOOO!!

TSUBAME!!
YOU GOT A NEW GIRL-FRIEND !?
GAH HYAA
DASH
DASH
HE RAN AWAY!
WHAT THE--
BOSS, HE'S GETTING AWAY!
THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE PRETTY !
IT SEEMS OUR INFOR-MATION WAS CORRECT !!

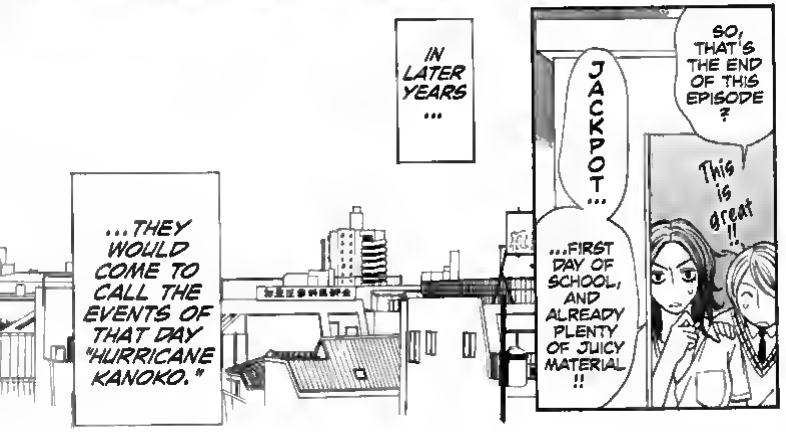
THERE YOU ARE !!
SHOCK!
WAAHH!!
LET
I MEAN, I ALWAYS KNEW THEY'D BREAK UP QUICKLY, JUST NOT... THIS QUICKLY ...
This means HE'LL soon BE MINE!
PANT PANT
YOU THINK IT'S TRUE THAT TSUBAME WAS CHEATING ON HER ?
Maybe it's time to give up on him already ?
KA-THUMP KAPTHUMP KA-THUMP
.....
AHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
YOU FOOL!! YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I HAVE X-RAY VISION!!
NOOOOO!!
DODODODODODODODODO
BOYS' LOCKER ROOM
BBANG
KYAAAAAA
THERE YOU ARE!!
SHE'S PENE-TRATED THE BARRIER !!
THE BOYS
THE DESTINY COUPLE'S BRIDE IS APPROACHING MELTDOWN!! TSUBAME CAN'T SURVIVE MUCH LONGER !!
IT HURTS ME AS A MAN TO SEE HIM LIKE THIS!! TSUBAME, QUICKLY, ENTER THE SHELTER!!

And no one TOLD me?
TSUBAME ... FOUND "AGEMAKI?" THE REINCAR-NATED GIRL HE WAS SEARCHING FOR?
WAIT, UH, WHAT? AGE-MAKI ?!
SOON ENOUGH, NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO STOP HER...
KANOKO'S ANGER IS REACHING IMME-SURABLE LEVELS!
Her eyes have turned white, too.
OH NO !!
BANG
Is that... Kanoko?
WHAT DO I DO?
KANOKO FOUND OUT...
PANT PANT
THUMP THUMP
STOMP
I'M SO SORRY, KANOKO-- REALLY !!
STOMP
DON'T YOU RUN FROM ME !!
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING TO ME ?!
Is this a... quarrel ?
WHAT THE HECK...
WAAAAH
KYAAA

DEAD END
Haahhh GAHhh
I...SAID I'M SORRY...
I...
WHEEL WHEEL
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING!! COMMON COURTESY !!
YOU WERE MEETING THAT "AGEMAKI" GIRL...
DEEP DOWN, I KNEW ...
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU, YOU KNOW !!
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO TELL ME WHAT YOU WERE THINKING!!
AREN'T YOU AND I DATING ?
I HATE YOU, TSUBAME !!
I'M DATING YOU, KANOKO ...
NOOOOO
BWOOSH
LIAR!!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING HER ?
I RAN INTO HER WHEN I WENT BACK TO LOOK FOR YOUR RING...
I...I'M SORRY.. I JUST ...
...I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO ...
WA!--
WAIT, KANOKO !!
WELL, NOT EXACTLY --
JUST, WELL, SOMETIMES... ?
CHEERLEADING?!
Get 'im, Kanoko !!
GO GO !!
AND... EVER SINCE THEN ?!
YOU FOOL !!
WAAAHH!!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!
YOU WILL FIND NO FORGIVENESS HERE !!

I CAN'T GUARANTEE I WON'T KICK YOU OR SOMETHING ...
I MEAN ...
... I'M SO SORRY ...
... KANOKO ...


IN LATER YEARS ...
...THEY WOULD COME TO CALL THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY "HURRICANE KANOKO."
JACKPOT ...
...FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AND ALREADY PLENTY OF JUICY MATERIAL !!
SO, THAT'S THE END OF THIS EPISODE ?
This is great !!

Pat
DUMMY !!
SO...IF THAT GIRL REALLY IS YOUR "DESTINED LOVE..."
...JUST TELL ME YOU WANT TO BREAK UP...
YOU KNOW ...
...I COULD NEVER HATE YOU...

I'M SORRY I DID SUCH A STUPID THING.
I DON'T WANT TO BREAK UP WITH YOU, KANOKO.
YET...
...AFTER I MET HER, I STARTED TO REMEMBER MY "PAST LIFE" AGAIN...
...AND I JUST FELT SO HELPLESS ...
I MADE A PROMISE WITH TSUBAME ...
HE WOULD MEET HER ONE MORE TIME...
AND FIGURE EVERY-THING OUT... AND THEN WE WOULD DECIDE.
PINKY SWEAR !!
BREAK THE PROMISE AND YOU HAVE TO CUT OFF YOUR FINGER!!
THAT WOULD REALLY SUCK, THOUGH, TO NOT HAVE A PINKY.
It's such a cute finger.
DO YOU PROMISE OR DON'T YOU?
Man, I'm really tired from all that running around.
WE CAN JUST MAKE IT YOUR PINKY FINGERNAIL, THEN?

THIS IS A PROMISE THAT YOU WON'T LIE...
...TO ME, OR TO YOUR-SELF.
PROMISE ?
I'M DOING THIS...
... BECAUSE I REALLY, REALLY ...
... DO LIKE HIM ...
I DON'T WANT TO REGRET MAKING THE CHOICE TO GO OUT WITH HIM...
COMING!!
STAMP STOMP

...WELL, I PROMISED TSUBAME...
You'll TOTALLY regret not going!
WHAAAAT?!?! WHY?!?! THIS SHOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITY!!
IT'S GOING TO BE AN AWESOME SHOW, I GUARANTEE IT!
I... HAVE A DATE ON SUNDAY...
THIS SUNDAY?
I... CAN'T MAKE IT. SORRY...

SO... GIVE THE TICKETS TO SOMEONE ELSE.
YEAH.
...YOU MEAN TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA?
...KANOKO.
YEAH.
THEN I SHOULDN'T GO...
HOWEVER...
I KNOW YOU AND TSUBAME ARE DATING...

KANOKO-CHAAAN!! LONG TIME, NO SEE! HOW YA BEEN?
Just getting out of the bath. I see!
...UH... ARATA?!

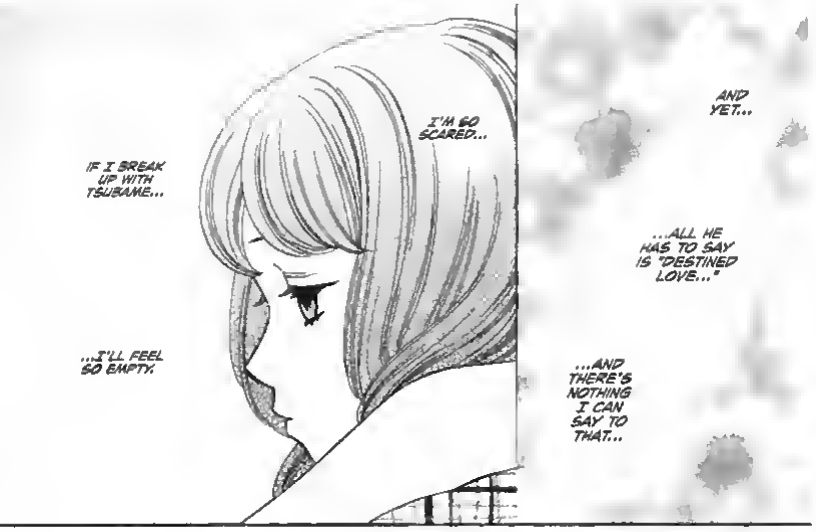
I HAVE COME TO DRINK THE BLOOOOOOD OF A SQUEAKY-CLEAN, GORGEOUS YOUNG GIRL!!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I CAME TO BRING YOU A PRESENT!!
TICKETS TO THIS SUNDAY'S CONCERT!!
WHAT!!
JUST KIDDING!!
You're so cute!

GOOD EEE-EVEN-ING, LITTLE LADY!!♡

I bought tickets through the fan club... these... though...
OH MY GOD
NO. WAY. THESE ARE PREMIUM TICKETS !!
SECOND. ROW. ?!?!?! THIS IS NUTS!!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT GOING?
SQUEAK!!
THERE'S ENOUGH FOR ALL OF YOU. GO AHEAD. USE THEM.
IT'S KIND OF A WASTE ...
KANOKO ...
EAVES DROPPING !!
WUH OH
DASH!!
What a fool ...
LOOKS LIKE YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH A MORON, TOO, HUH?

YOU KNOW ...
...YOU DON'T LOOK VERY HAPPY TO ME.
YOU SHOULD DUMP HIM. GO OUT WITH ME INSTEAD.
I'LL PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE. OH, YES.
IT'S SO WEIRD ...
ANYWAY ... SEE YOU AT THE SHOW!
BECAUSE I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO GIVE UP ON YOU.
...I COULDN'T SAY "NO" TO HIM...


IF I BREAK UP WITH TSUBAME...
I'M SO SCARED...
...I'LL FEEL SO EMPTY.
AND YET...
...ALL HE HAS TO SAY IS "DESTINED LOVE..."
...AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN SAY TO THAT...

shrrrr
KYAAAA!!
THE WATER'S FREEZING!!

Let me tell you how it is...
CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
YOU JUST HAVE TO TRAIN THEM...
YOU CAN GET ANY GUY YOU WANT, RIGHT, BOSS?
I HAVE A LOT OF SYMPATHY FOR YOU, GIRL.
SOMETIMES YOU JUST FEEL... CHAINED TO YOUR LOVE...
...I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE.
I...
I GUESS ...
JUST...
...COULDN'T SAY "DON'T GO..."
...AND CRY OUT, AND CLING TO HIM.

...A RIVER? REALLY?
WHEN WE COMMITTED SUICIDE IN THE "PAST LIFE" IT WAS IN A RIVER...
DON'T YOU... REMEMBER?
AREN'T YOU AFRAID, MISAKI?
AND YOU HAVE YOUR BIRTHMARK ALL COVERED UP LIKE THAT...
WELL! I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING YET!!
OH!!
ANYWAY!
ANYWAY!!
LOOK!!

AHH... I THINK I'D BETTER GO HOME...
OH, COME ON, JUST FOR A MINUTE!!
C'MON IN, TSUBAME!!
WAHH
BLOOH
WHAT'S WRONG?
UM...I'M KINDA... AFRAID OF WATER...

...MY TRUE LOVE...
I'M SO HAPPY I MET YOU...!!
I WAS SO...SO LONELY... ALL THIS TIME...
I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO...
MISAKI-SAN...
WE'LL BE SO HAPPY TOGETHER ...

I WAS LOOKING FOR THAT RING--
HEEHEE!!
YOU HAD IT?
I'LL THROW IT INTO THE OCEAN IF YOU DON'T COME IN!!
Heh HEH
NOOOOOO!!
GAH!
CHOOMP
OHMYGOD...
I CAN'T move!!
AHAHAHAH!!
TSUBAME ...

WAAAAA
GET READY TO GO CRA-AAAA-AAA-AZY !!
WELCOME TO OUR SHOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN !!

SHOOOO
TSUBAME IS MINE...
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR TWO HOURS ...
TSUBAME ...
.....
COME ON, KANOKO! COME SEE THE SPLASH CONCERT WITH US !!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE !
WHY WON'T HE AT LEAST CALL ?
KANOKO!!

DOES THIS MEAN...
...TSUBAME AND I ARE FINISHED?
WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY OFFER HIM...

TAIJU, YOU'RE SOO COOOOL !!
YEAH!!
WOW...
...ARATA... I FEEL LIKE I'M IN ANOTHER WORLD...
...WHAT COULD SUCH A GUY EVER WANT WITH ME...?

AWE-SOME JOB, GUYS!! ☆
HEY! GLAD YOU ALL MADE IT!
THAT WAS GREAT!!
WHAT'D YOU THINK? GREAT SHOW, HUH?
Whisper whisper
Oh no, that guy--
UH... YOU ALL CAME?
Thanks
YOU WERE... REALLY COOL...
I KNOW!!
Hey hey hey!!
OH... UH.....
WHAT'D YOU THINK, KANOKO?
TAIJU! YOU THREW THAT BOTTLE OF WATER TO ME ON PURPOSE, RIGHT?!
Sorry, I didn't catch it--

KANOKO...
...CAN YOU COME WITH ME FOR A MINUTE?
...WHAT?!
...SURE.

BONUS MANGA
THE SECRET OF THE TORTOISE-SHELL CAT
BY TORU FUJIEDA
STUDY TIME
MYSTERIOUS ANIMALS
Rare as tortoise-shell cats are among cats...
...the male tortoise shell is even rarer.
They say that the chance of a male tortoise-shell cat being born is around one in thirty thousand.
One in thirty thousand?
That is to say... most tortoise-shell cats are female.
FEMALE EXAMPLE
(BLACK GENES)
(BROWN GENES)
MIXED
TORTOISE-SHELL
Cats' fur color patterns are only recorded in the "X" chromosome.
MALE EXAMPLE
BLACK
NO MIX
Therefore, in order for a tortoise-shell cat to be born, both the "black" and "brown" fur color "X" chromosomes are required, meaning only females can possess such color traits.
A tortoise-shell cat
The reason for this is related to the cats' genetic patterns.
Cats' chromosomes are like humans'. Females are XX, and males are XY However

VROOM
VROOM
THIS COULD BE BAD-- REAL BAD!!
WE WERE SO BUSY ENJOYING OURSELVES THAT WE LET HIM SLIP AWAY!!
I SAW-WWWW THEM !!
NOT AGAIN !!
OH NO !!
WHAT THE HECK IS ARATA THINKING ?!
And everyone SAW him!
WHAT THE--- !!
That's another guy's GIRLFRIEND !!
Noooooooo!!
TSUBAME!! KANOKO NEEEEEDS YOU!!
CHAPTER 33 END

Because male tortoise-shell cats were so extremely rare, they were considered a lucky cat, a prince among cats, in the Edo Period.

The ladies of Yoshiwara were often called "Neruko" ("sleeping girls"), which was shorted as "Neko" (which also means "cat"). And because the instruments on which they played music were bound with cat skins, so geishas were often called "Neko" as well.

There was a geisha in the Edo Period, named "Usugumo," who was very famous for loving her cat. She tied a bow around the neck of her little tortoise-shell kitten. It's said she carried the kitten wherever she went. It never wanted to be away from her. People began to think that the cat was some sort of magical protector.

One day, when Usugumo was using the toilet at a restaurant, her cat tried to enter the bathroom to follow her. The shop owner drew his short sword and decapitated the cat. The cat's head flew off, landing on a snake that was hiding just inside the bathroom partition. The cat's head bit down on the snake and killed it.

The people in the shop realized that the cat had wanted to protect Usugumo from the snake. They put the cat's skeleton in a nearby shrine, and mourned it respectfully.

After that, most women in Yoshiwara began to carry cats wherever they walked, and shops started to put up little statues of male tortoise-shell cats out front to invite in customers.

WELL, THEN, SEE YOU IN THE NEXT VOLUME! ♪

"Oyayubihime Infinity" Volume 5/End

The male's chromosomes would have to be XXY. Of course, the two X chromosomes would have to be for different fur colors

XX

XXY ← COLOR PATTERN CHROMOSOMES

IT'S POSSIBLE FOR A MALE TO BE BORN WITH TWO X CHROMOSOMES.

XY

In the extremely rare case of a male being born

Because of the complicated genetic patterns, many male tortoise-shell cats are incapable of reproducing.

This is why it's so difficult to breed male tortoise-shell cats.

"XXY"

CHROMOSOMES • THE CAT IS BIOLOGICALLY MALE AND MENTALLY FEMALE.

THAT IS TO SAY, THE CAT IS KIND OF...BOTH!

HI' TANNN

STUDY HARD, MIYAKE-KUN!!

It feels like something died in here...

...HMMM. SOMETHING... STRANGE IS IN THE AIR.

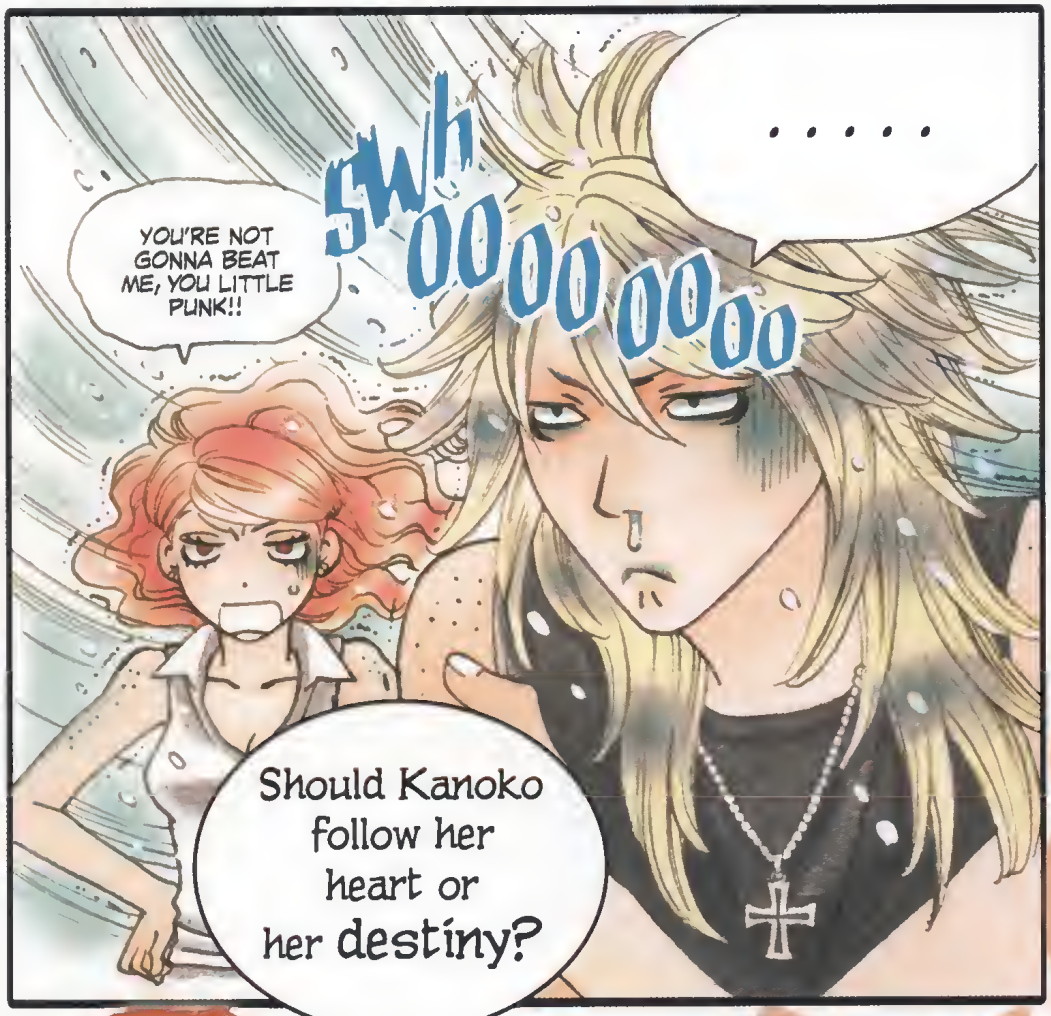
What's wrong, Mike?

I baked you a cake!!

KNOCK

HEY, MIKE!! WE CAME TO CHECK ON YOU!!

END



After resisting Tsubame's overtures for so long and becoming convinced that he is not her destined lover, Kanoko's feelings for him have nevertheless begun to deepen. Meanwhile, Mike is convinced he has met Tsubame's past-life true love, the other "Agemaki." Once again, Kanoko must dive into the past to try and find some answers.

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TEEN
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